

Press Release

22nd July 2011

Council Will Feed Local Views in to District Plan

THE NEWLY ELECTED East Grinstead Town Council has agreed the set up of a neighbourhood planning working group to start working up a formal town plan.

This is in response to changes outlined in the coalition's Localism Bill, first published in December 2010, which sets out the framework and key principles for a system of neighbourhood planning in England. It seeks to create new planning tools to help empower communities to shape and manage development in their local areas.

Chairman of the working group Cllr Brunsdon says, " This fundamental change to the planning system has a significant local impact. With neighbourhood plans, communities such as East Grinstead will have real choice about the issue of growth. We will have the opportunity to develop our own planning policies and ensure that those neighbourhoods which choose to grow feel the benefits of that decision. Our aim is to give people real choice, and real influence. Localism and neighbourhood plans firmly put decisions for such change back in the hands of those who know what's best for this town - our residents."

The Working party's next steps are to revisit earlier plans and research, consider ideas drawn from a recent strategy day to develop some formal proposals, which will then be subject to public consultation before being fed in to the planning authority Mid Sussex District Council to include in the overall District Plan. Throughout the project local residents, organisations and businesses will be invited to contribute views and thoughts. These consultations are intended to be a mix of informal and formal including a public meeting to present emerging ideas towards the end of the year.

For further information contact: Julie Holden Town Clerk, East Grinstead Town Council
j.holden@eastgrinstead.gov.uk