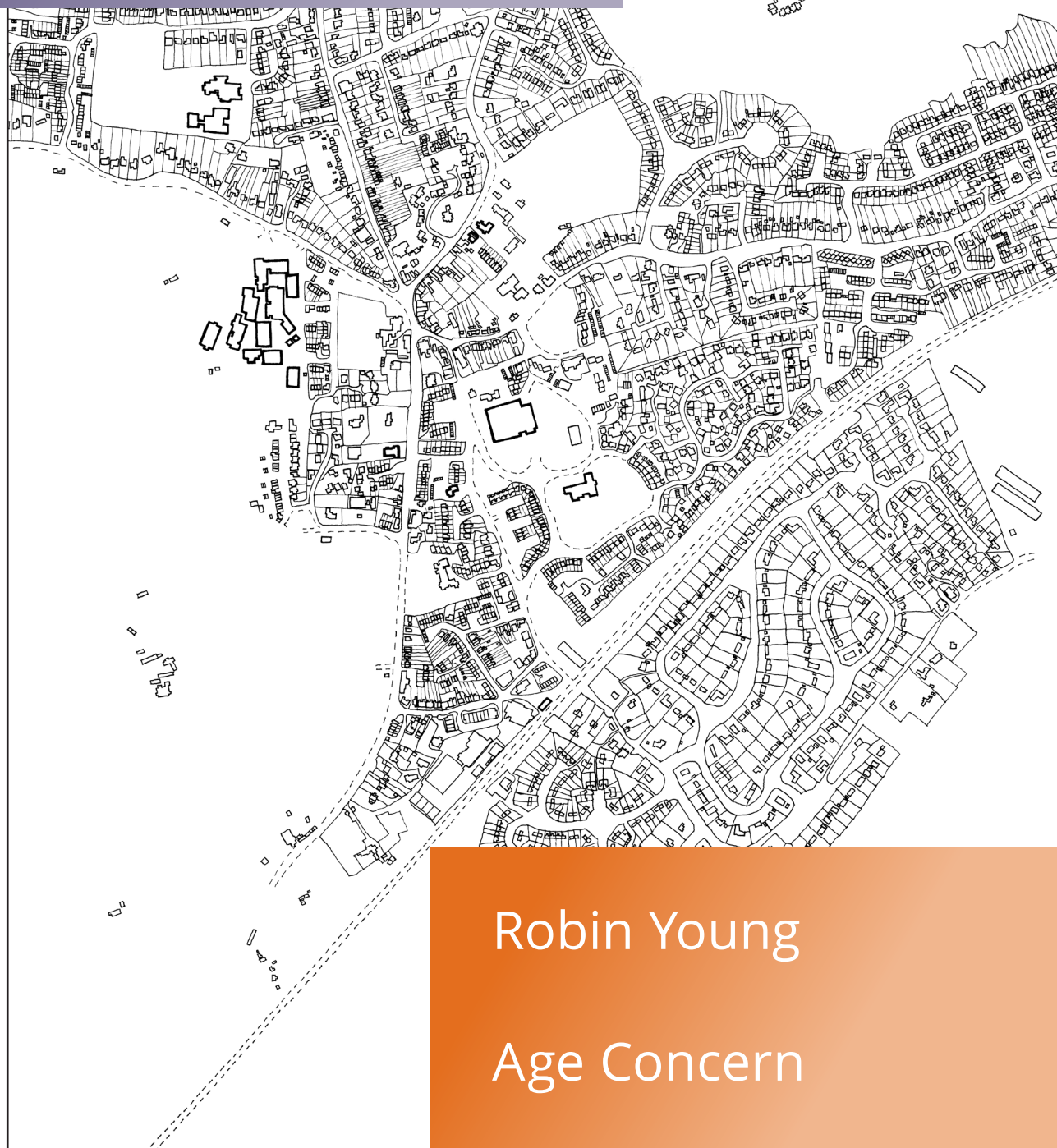


Bramshott & Liphook
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

November 2017



Robin Young

Age Concern

Liphook Age Concern

Liphook Age Concern was formed in 1974, mainly to pull together the groups who look after the Elderly.

“The object of the Charity is to promote the relief of the elderly people in any manner which now is or hereafter may be decreed by law to be charitable in and around Bramshott & Liphook (hereinafter called the area of benefit)”

We received a generous bequest from a local resident a few years ago which has been most helpful (and will continue to be helpful) in assisting the elderly in all manner of ways.

Thanks to grants raised and donations received, we have been able to purchase a Minibus and have it especially adapted for a wheelchair and the disabled. This is used to transport people locally from their homes to their various activities and this has helped enormously as each group was declining in numbers due to transport difficulties.

We are most grateful to the dedicated volunteer drivers without whom, this service would not function smoothly.

We provide help and financial support to a number of groups covering outings, Christmas parties etc.

We have produced a Directory of Services and Activities which we hope, will serve the Community well and provide useful information for all age groups as and when needed. This directory has been updated and the new issue will be delivered to every address in the Parish in January 2018 and this will include businesses.

Needs of the Elderly

Oxford Dictionary

Definition: Somewhat old or past middle age (the period between youth and old age about 45-60).

This then places the people we are dealing with into the category which anyone who is not elderly does not understand, for which I will hope to explain a bit more.

So the children have all grown up and left the nest and you are living as a couple or on your own as your partner has departed this world. You have retired from work and live on your pension.

Yes, your children keep in touch and perhaps see you at weekends or if something serious happens.

During the week you are very much left to your own devices, so what do you do?

If fit and well and bodily active, gardening, outings, shopping, clubs, all the usual stuff. Having carried all your own shopping back home. For clothing or anything else what do you do?

If you are not fit and active, then what? Sit at home watching television, and staring out of the window?

If you have a car then you can hopefully still use it.

If not:

To go anywhere you need transport, to collect you from home, (helping you put on your coat etc) help to get into the car, then help to get out. The same for the return.

If you want to go by bus in Liphook you use the local run-a-round in the mornings only, but only if you can open the sliding door of the bus and carry your own bags/trolleys on.

Other buses only go one in direction to Bordon, Alton etc. No buses to Petersfield, Haslemere, Grayshott etc.

You cannot use the train as access at the platforms are not easy, the southbound needs a climb of 30 steps over the tracks and still getting on the train is not easy because of the height of the trains. Yes, a ramp is available but only when there is a railway employee there to help you, which is very rare.

If you are frail, ill, or have a medical condition, then you can use a Care Service at a cost, but only have 15 minutes a visit. Hardly time to get you dressed and eat your meal, and take your medication.

Likewise for cleaning etc, at a cost.

The main trouble is that a lot of the elderly are stubborn and will not accept help of charity, these are the ones that Age Concern attempt to approach and inform of all the things available to them to make their lives more comfortable.

Are you able to cook and provide for yourself; if not, you can have meals on wheels delivered daily at a cost. Or you can go out to one of the organisations that will provide for you.

Hospital visits, either appointments or as a visitor, or even visit to the Doctor, are out of the question, apart from using the local car service or a more expensive taxi.

I hope I have explained this well enough for anyone to understand the problems with the elderly, they need help from the younger people. This is getting less and less as they have to work more to make a living and look after their own families, also the retiring age is increasing, so volunteering to help organisations is becoming more and more difficult due to the time factor. It is becoming very hard for some of these organisations to keep running, without more help coming forth.