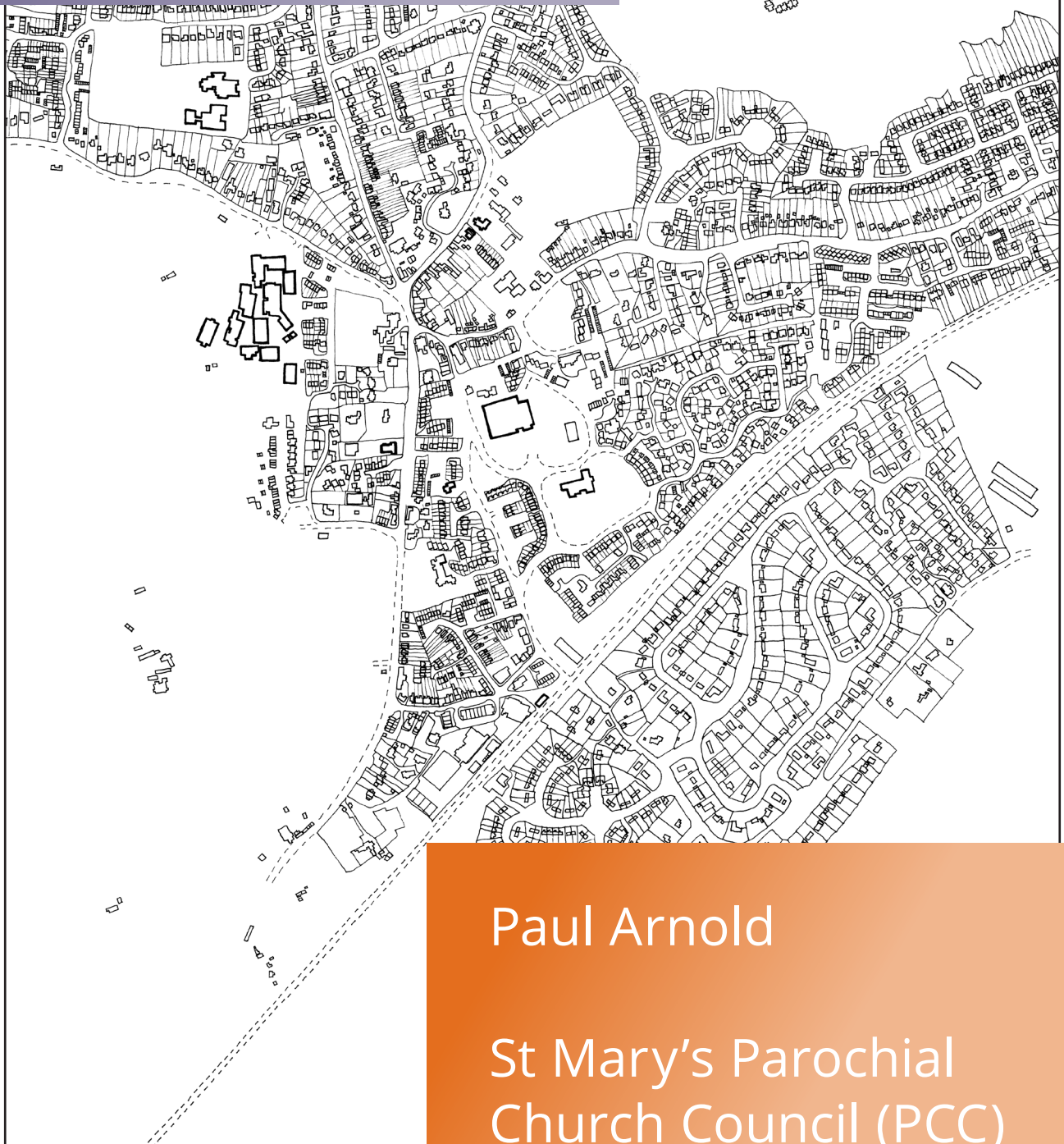


Bramshott & Liphook  
Neighbourhood Plan

# Position Statement

November 2017



Paul Arnold

St Mary's Parochial  
Church Council (PCC)

# St Mary's Bramshott & Liphook Parochial Church Council

## Presentation to Liphook Parish Council NDP Design Forum

By Paul Arnold MBE BA BSc C.Eng MICE  
Lay vice chair of the PCC  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

# Who we are – St Mary's Bramshott and Liphook Parochial Church Council

A charitable body set up in accordance with CofE legislation to further and promote the whole mission of the church by:

- Providing facilities for public Christian Worship
- Offering pastoral care
- Providing opportunities for spiritual, moral and intellectual development for all
- Promoting Christian values and service by members to the community.

# Context



St Mary's Bramshott

St Mary's  
Church Centre  
Liphook



## Two Centres of worship

- We have 158 people on our electoral role
- A typical Sunday congregation across all services of 140 adults and children
- Weekday service
- Friday night activities for our youth
- Each place of worship has its own style

# Activity for the community - services

Civic services such as:

- Remembrance day
- Canada day remembrance, and in 2016
  - special services for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and for key points in the 1<sup>st</sup> world war

In 2016 there were 19 funerals or memorial services and 8 weddings

St Mary's Church used by local schools for special services

# Activity for the community - other

- Parent and toddler group (Little Lambs)
- Mums and first babies (mums and bumps)
- Rector takes assemblies in local schools
- Lunch club – for all
- Tea and company – originally for those bereaved in need of support and company
- Visits to care homes - PARCHE initiative
- Parenting and marriage preparation classes
- Newly opened Ark pre-school



# The Ark Pre-School



Combination of our vision and Hampshire CC coming to us to see if we could use our building

We have invested a net £49,000 to provide 24 places for 3-4 year olds for the community



# Activity for the community - hosting

Church Centre is used:

- by a variety of local groups and organisations and play groups
- for childrens' parties – popular venue
- by EHDC for their RAPP play scheme
- as a Polling Station
- for the NHS Blood donor service



# What is good about Liphook?

## Church members views

Limited survey of members cited:

- a sense of community and neighbourliness (mostly the older age group)
- good accessibility by car and by train (younger age group)
- a good social mix of people
- proximity to accessible countryside

# What is good about Liphook – PCC perspective

- Church is integrated into the community
- St Mary's church seen as the village church even though geographically remote
- Support given to maintaining the Grade 2\* building and grounds - from local councils and Friends of St Mary's

# What is not so good? Church member views

- the scale of new development, particularly in terms of pressures on services and the transport system
- a lack of a proper Village centre
- poor provisions for young people both in terms of places to meet and shopping
- public transport, particularly bus services;
- the Community Talkback Chat Room tends to project a very negative image of people and the content can be quite personal and hurtful;
- a lack of communication of what is available to each age group in the village;
- the pressures of modern day life on marriage partnerships and families.

# What is not so good? - PCC perspective

- Concern about the way the church at Bramshott is the village focus, to the detriment of the Church Centre
- The Church centre is an early 1970s building in need of significant refurbishment if it is to continue to serve the community

# Room for improvement

- Village to see the Church Centre as a place of worship as well as a community hall and take an interest in helping maintain the building
- Talk-Back needs careful moderation – make it easy so that complaints can be directed at the right organisation
- Provide an easily updated community diary
- Consider supporting the setting up of a food bank



# Final Thoughts

- Spread out nature of retail and service outlets does little for the sense of community and there is an "empty village" feel outside of rush hour
- Need to integrate people from new developments eg our church initiative to the Silent Garden providing community as well as church information
- Our church is pleased that it is part of the community
- It would like to increase its community offering at the centre to meet social needs eg drop-ins, parenting and marriage courses with a Christian ethos and values