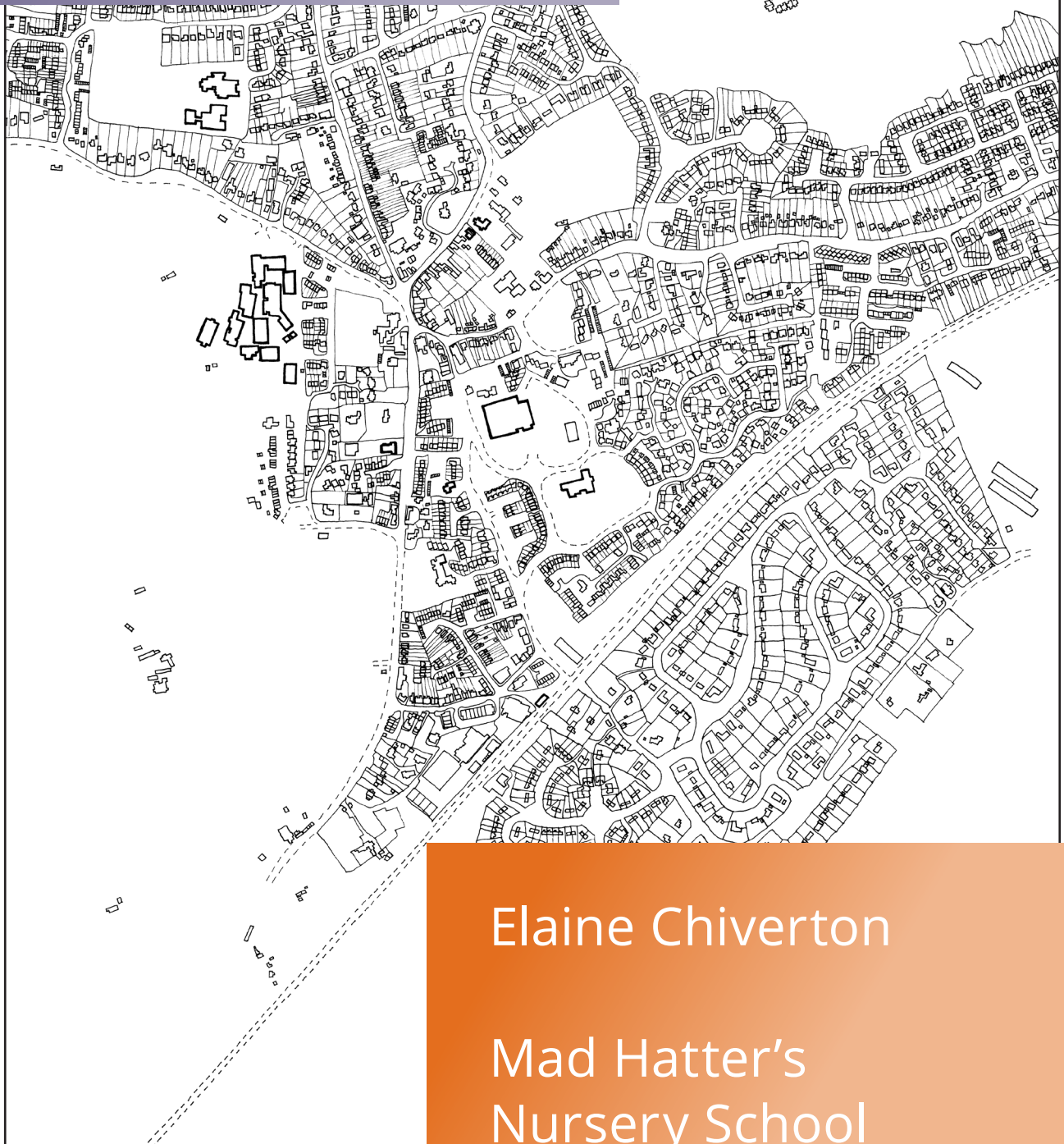


Bramshott & Liphook
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

November 2017



Elaine Chiverton

Mad Hatter's
Nursery School

Mad Hatter's Nursery School

Mad Hatter's nursery school has been established for 18 years and is in the grounds of Bohunt School. The nursery has gone from strength to strength adding a new building 10 years ago to meet the demand for more nursery places for the two year old children in and around Liphook. We then replaced our old building last year enabling us to offer a better environment for the older children to learn in. For the last 5/6 years we have been oversubscribed and in September 2017 (the start of the academic year) for both the two year olds and three to five years age groups, we have had no alternative but to turn parents away through lack of places available. We currently have 78 children on our books attending between 6 hours and thirty hours and come January we will be full to capacity when the January grant becomes available to those turning three between September and December. We have children who turn three between January and April but may not be able to offer them their entitlement of between 15 and 30 hours. We will only be able to offer a few places to any children between now and September 2018. We have waiting lists for children who haven't even been born yet, as parents know what a struggle it will be to secure a place at any of the nurseries in Liphook or the surrounding area. The need for more nursery places must be paramount consideration in the planning for the future, otherwise families with children from the Liphook and Bramshott area will find themselves having to travel outside the village to find nursery places. This puts extra pressure on parents who are being encouraged to return to work by the implementation of the 30 hour funding. Luckily, this year, we only had six parents who wished to take up the 30 hour entitlement, but as this becomes a more established way to enable the parents to return to work, this number will undoubtedly increase in the future. Liphook Infant and Junior schools both have outstanding reputations and parents will strive to live in the catchment area for these schools, but they will also be looking for good local nurseries and child-minding services to provide wrap around care for their children. It is very important that children have stability in their lives and the transition between nursery and infant school and then junior and senior school is very important to their education and settling in process. If children have had to attend a nursery several miles away, they may not have made the friendships that help this transition process, plus nurseries that are out of the area will not have the relationship between nursery and school that we have found to be invaluable in this process.

Educating our children from Liphook in Liphook is essential for the well being of the Liphook children. They are the future.