

This consultation statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) in respect of the Broadsands, Churston and Galmpton Neighbourhood Area and Forum.

The legal basis of this Statement is provided by Section 15 (2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

### **Consultation**

The formation of the previous Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum occurred following extensive consultation carried out over an extended period commencing in 2008. Details of this consultation are comprehensively evidenced in the Brixham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement (second version).

The villages of Churston, Galmpton and Broadsands are not parished but have well established community groups. The Churston, Galmpton and Broadsands Community Partnership was an active group holding regular meetings until March 2020 and the onset of Covid-19. The Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum steering group also met regularly until March 2020, reporting back to the Community and Forum on a regular basis, a number of residents being members of both groups. Key members and former members of these groups were members of the Churston, Galmpton and Broadsands Community Partnership steering group and directly involved in the Neighbourhood Plan representing these areas.

Since March 2020, much of the community engagement is now done through social media such as a Facebook page for the Churston with Galmpton Ward, run by Ward Councillors, with in excess of 365 members, or through a regular Ward Councillor newsletter with a distribution of over 200 residents. In addition, the Galmpton Residents Association is an active group with about 300 members.

### **The Villages**

The villages of Broadsands, Churston and Galmpton feel a strong, collective, and more rural identity as separate from the three towns of Torbay. This was recently indicated very clearly in a consultation carried out by Torbay Council in early 2019 regarding town councils. Although this was not directly related to Neighbourhood Planning, the results of that consultation showed a strong feeling of separate identity in the Churston with Galmpton Ward from Brixham and Paignton. This consultation included roadshows, events and live social media question and answer sessions; the distribution of posters and comment postcards at key locations across the Bay as well as social media notices; all local residents, businesses and organisations were invited to complete online questionnaires; over 400 Viewpoint panel members were e-mailed and about 6000 randomly selected Torbay householders were sent letters inviting them to take part in the consultation.

The Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan contains, and it is intended that the new Broadsands, Churston and Galmpton Neighbourhood Plan will also contain, individual design statements for each of the village areas.

### **Raison D'etre**

Within the BPNP documents, the Basic Conditions Statement sets out in detail how the Brixham Town Council, as the primary authority having responsibility for neighbourhood planning, set up the Neighbourhood Forum as a wholly independent sub-committee. At the inaugural meeting of the Forum in June 2011 it was agreed that the Forum would be community led.

In July 2021 Brixham Town Council resolved to dissolve the Forum which was prescribed in the Constitution. In its place they offered a Task and Finish group but the democratic involvement of the villages was substantially curtailed. Specifically, all substantive decisions would now need approval by Brixham Town Councillors and not a wider body which would include representation from the entire neighbourhood area. This has created a perceived unfair imbalance between the parished and unparished areas of the BPNP area.

The communities within the unparished area have made it known through communications with their Ward Councillors, former Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum steering group members, and community social media sites that they wish to have a direct say in their neighbourhood in the same way they did prior to July 2021 and in the same way both Paignton and Torquay Neighbourhood Forums continue to do. For this reason, it has been decided to divide the Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan area into two plans consisting of the parished and non-parished areas. The non-parished area has now formed the Broadsands, Churston and Galmpton Neighbourhood Forum.

### **The Forum**

The majority of members of the Broadsands, Churston and Galmpton Neighbourhood Forum are residents from each of the three village areas with a small number of representatives from local businesses. However, the three villages are largely residential with few businesses in the area. The age demographic of the membership is largely retirees but, again, this reflects the general demographic of the area. We also have a small number of associate members who live on the border of our new plan area, a small number in the North Boundary Road area of Brixham and a small number in the Hookhills and Goodrington area of Paignton. There is a good spread of membership from all three village areas.

Both Ward Councillors are members of the Forum and their details are:

Karen Kennedy tel: 07464201149 Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3DR

Judith Mills tel: 07865677400 Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3DR

Members of the previous Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum steering group have indicated they are available in a consultative capacity and have joined as full or associate members of the new Forum.

The Forum website address is [www.bcgvillages.org.uk](http://www.bcgvillages.org.uk).

### **The Plan**

The Broadsands, Churston and Galmpton Neighbourhood Forum acknowledge that the Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum (which was “made” in June 2019) is a good plan in which the policies are in general conformity with the Torbay Local Plan. It should therefore continue to be given great weight in decision taking until superseded by new plans.