

## **Schedule B**

### **Emsworth Forum**

#### **Statement of Explanation of the Proposed Emsworth Neighbourhood Area**

The original Steering Group set up to establish the Forum considered all the physical and geographic characteristics of the town and its boundaries. Following detailed discussion, the Steering Group concluded that the Electoral Ward Boundary for Emsworth (as shown in Schedule A) is the most appropriate area to be designated the Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum Area.

The Steering Group would have preferred to include some or all of the settlement to the east of Emsworth Town Centre known locally as Hermitage. However, this area is in the neighbouring Parish of Southbourne, located in the Chichester District Council, in West Sussex and had already been designated a Neighbourhood Area for Neighbourhood Planning purposes. Therefore this would not be legally or practically possible.

The boundaries of the Electoral Ward follow natural features, such as the river Ems and drainage ditches, as well as parts of main roads and the railway line. It contains all of the main retail and residential areas of the Town, and, apart from Hermitage, the Steering Group was of the view that there were no other residential areas that needed to be included. The Steering Group concluded that Emsworth residents and others familiar with the area would recognise all the areas it is proposed to be included to be the Emsworth Neighbourhood. To go beyond these proposed boundaries would include areas that are not considered locally to be Emsworth (with the exception of parts of Hermitage). Furthermore, having the area coterminous with the Electoral Ward boundary would have the advantage of simplifying the administrative processes for the Planning Authority in conducting its statutory duties, including the holding of a Referendum, and keep costs to the minimum for local taxpayers.