

## **SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

### **AUTHORITY MEETING 18 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Held at East Hants District Council, Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire at 2.00pm

Present:

Sebastian Anstruther Jim Funnell	Nick Bennett Jennifer Gray	Ken Bodfish Barbara Holyome	David Burden Doug Jones	Janet Coles Mark Kemp-Gee
Jeremy Leggett	Barry Lipscomb	Margaret Paren (Chair)	Charles Peck	Sue Saville
Andrew Shaxson	Deborah Urquhart	Pete West		

SDNPA Officers: Trevor Beattie (Chief Executive Officer), Tim Slaney (Director of Planning), Claire Potts (Mineral & Waste Lead Officer), Kevin Gardner (Monitoring Officer), Nigel Manvell (Acting Chief Finance Officer) and Fiona MacLeod (Member Services Manager).

### **APOLOGIES**

87. Apologies were received from Alun Alesbury, Jo Carr, Norman Dingemans, Neville Harrison, David Jenkins, Tom Jones, Diana Kershaw and Tom Tupper.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

88. Pete West declared a personal but non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 9 (Delegation for Approval of Significant Main Modifications to the Waste and Mineral Plan for East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Planning Committee) as a member of Brighton & Hove City Council.
89. Sebastian Anstruther declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10 (Modifications to the Joint Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan) as a minerals landowner.

### **MINUTES**

90. The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 26 July 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.
91. With reference to Minute 61, the State of the Park report had been signed off by the Chief Executive Officer and Authority Chair and was on schedule to be launched at the end of October 2012 with an accompanying 'micro' site on the main SDNPA web site ([www.southdowns.gov.uk](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk)).

### **URGENT MATTERS**

92. No urgent matters were raised.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

93. Mr Steve Ankers spoke on Agenda item 7 (Delegation to the SDNPA Planning Committee to Approve the Joint Lewes Core Strategy for Pre-submission Publication and Subsequent Submission to the Secretary of State). Mr Ankers spoke of behalf of the South Downs Society and the Friends of Lewes and fully supported the content of Report 23/12 and the delegation proposals. He referred to the Report by the Inspector into the designation of the South Downs National Park regarding Old Malling Farm in Lewes and expressed the view that conservation and environmental impact should take precedence over development.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PROGRESS REPORT

94. Report 22/12 on progress since the last report on 26 July 2012 was introduced by the Chief Executive Officer.
95. The Chief Executive Officer updated Authority Members on the following topics:
- Nigel Manvell had been confirmed as Acting Chief Finance Officer whilst Catherine Vaughan was in her role as the Interim Chief Executive Officer at Brighton & Hove City Council;
  - Ministerial Reshuffle: a definitive statement on Ministerial responsibilities within Defra was still awaited but it was clear that Richard Benyon would continue as the Minister responsible for national parks. A point was raised that there may be new Ministerial thinking as a result of the reshuffle, for example, on the location of wind turbines;
  - New Housing and Planning Package: although not confirmed yet by government, there was every reason to believe that national parks would be included in the definition of the protected areas which would be excluded from the extension of permitted developer rights for householder extensions;
  - Management Plan Member workshop dates: the workshop on sustainable tourism had been changed to 15 November and the workshop on renewable energy and energy efficiency had been changed to 18 December 2012;
  - Neighbourhood Planning: recent government announcements meant that there would be additional resources for Neighbourhood Planning in addition to any existing "frontrunner" resources;
  - Conversion of the Petersfield to Midhurst Railway Line: the correct route should be Midhurst to Pulborough, not Midhurst to Petworth;
  - South Downs Centre: the two Listed Buildings Consents were deferred from the Planning Committee meeting on 13 September 2012 to allow them to be considered alongside the main Planning Application at the October meeting of the Planning Committee. The target date for completion of the refurbishment would now be August 2013, with the community facilities available from October 2013;
  - Annual Conference of National Park Societies: the South Downs Society was thanked for their sponsorship and organisation of this impressive event.
96. **Resolved:** that the Authority
- 1) notes the progress made by the South Downs National Park Authority since the last Report in July 2012.

## DELEGATION TO THE SDNPA PLANNING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE LEWES DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY FOR PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

97. Report 23/12 was introduced by the Director of Planning who reminded Members that the Report only covered delegation procedures and protocols for the Authority, and did not consider the merits of the application at Old Malling Farm or provide the opportunity to debate the application.
98. The Director of Planning would give consideration to the comments raised by Mr Ankers during the public speaking item.
99. Several Members raised concerns regarding the specific wording 'and in turn the contribution to meeting National Park purposes' in Section I in Appendix I to Report 23/12. The sense of the meeting was that this wording should be removed.
100. **Resolved:** that, subject to the amendment in Minute 99, the Authority agrees to:
- 1) delegate to the Planning Committee to approve the proposed pre-submission document for Regulation 19 consultation;

- 2) delegate to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair any minor modifications of the pre-submission version of the joint Lewes District Core strategy for formal submission to the Secretary of State;
- 3) authorise the Director of Planning, in conjunction with the Chair of the Planning Committee, to agree main modifications to the Joint Core Strategy necessary to make the document sound during the Examination in Public, including any public consultation, subject to any significant changes of policy being referred to the Planning Committee; and
- 4) note that once the Inspector has found the Joint Lewes Core Strategy 'sound' following the formal examination, the South Downs National Park Authority and Lewes District Council will be required to adopt the final version.

### **PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT WASTE LOCAL PLAN FOR WEST SUSSEX AND THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK**

101. Report 24/12 was introduced by the Minerals and Waste Lead Officer, who highlighted that Recommendations 1 and 3 to the report were procedural, and Recommendation 2 required a decision by the Authority.
102. Members' attention was drawn to the following corrections and updates in Appendix 1 to Report 24/12:
- the scheduled closure of the Lidsey non-inert landfill site was 2015;
  - the Waste Forecasts figure was 0.67 million tonnes per annum to 2031;
  - Decoy Farm, Worthing - Remove as allocation following discussion with landowner. Include reference in the supporting text to the potential use of the site (in part) for waste uses that would not prejudice the re-development of the remainder of the site for non-waste uses;
  - Site north of Wastewater Treatment Works, Ford - Allocation - no substantive changes.
103. **Resolved:** that the Authority agrees to:
- 1) note the analysis of the responses to the consultation on the draft Waste Local Plan
  - 2) approve the publication of the Proposed Submission Draft Waste Local Plan for West Sussex and the part of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) in West Sussex; consultation on its soundness and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulations 19-21 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; and
  - 3) authorise the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee to agree any further changes to the Waste Local Plan, with West Sussex County Council, necessary to make it sound for consideration by the Inspector and subsequent public comment subject to any major changes of significance to the SDNP being subject of a decision of the SDNPA (with comments being sought from the Planning Committee).

Sebastian Anstruther left the meeting at 2.45pm and took no part in any discussion on the following item.

### **MODIFICATIONS TO JOINT HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN**

104. Report 26/12 was introduced by the Minerals and Waste Lead Officer, followed by a short presentation (copy available on request).
105. In response to a question regarding the new policy on silica sand, the Minerals and Waste Lead Officer explained that it had been identified as silica sand late in the process. In response to a question about the need to protect resources of soft sand from sterilisation, the Minerals and Waste Lead Officer explained that the Whitehill/Borden site had been safeguarded.

106. **Resolved:** that the Authority agrees to:
- 1). the proposed changes to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan;
  - 2). a schedule of the proposed changes being published and comments invited on their 'soundness' for submission to the Inspector; and
  - 3). delegate to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Chair of the planning Committee, to formally request, if necessary, of the Planning Inspector that the Public Examination process be suspended and/or undertake other procedural action as necessary in order to safeguard the Plan until revocation of the South East Plan has been completed.

Sebastian Anstruther rejoined the meeting.

#### **LOCAL PLAN MEMBER TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

107. Report 27/12 was introduced by the Director of Planning, who reminded Members of the key points in the report and explained that the Group would be in an advisory capacity only ie not decision making. Documentation from Group meetings would be available to all Members for information and all Members would be able to submit papers to the Group.
108. Following discussion, it was agreed that membership of the Group would consist of a mix of Planning Committee and non-Planning Committee Members, with a good spread across the National Park. It was made clear that any local authority members on the Group would not be representing their authority, but the SDNPA.
109. Members would be selected by the Chair in consultation with the Deputy Chair and the Chair of the Planning Committee.
110. **Resolved:** that the Authority:
- 1). agrees the setting up of a Local Plan Member Task and Finish Working Group which will meet on a regular basis between October 2012 and December 2014 to provide a Forum for SDNPA Members to discuss and debate the issues and options relating to the emerging Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule; and
  - 2). Approves in principle the draft Terms of Reference of the Task and Finish Working group (Appendix 3 to Report 27/12), subject to amendments taking into account points raised at the meeting.

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

111. The Authority noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 July and 9 August 2012.
112. The Committee Chair highlighted that at the 13 September Committee meeting there had been 18 items on the Agenda. The Birling Park Car Park application had been deferred to obtain more information and would be taken to a future meeting of the Planning Committee.

#### **STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

113. The Monitoring Officer updated Members on the inaugural meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee that took place on 13 September.
114. Norman Dingemans had been appointed as Committee Chair and Sue Saville appointed as Committee Deputy Chair.
115. A process for the recruitment of two Independent Persons under the new standards arrangements had been agreed. Authority Members would be encouraged bring this opportunity to the attention of potential candidates once the recruitment process began.
116. The matter of draft arrangements for handling allegations of failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct had been considered and would be the subject of a report to the next meeting of the Authority.

117. Approval had been given to the revised Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 and the revised Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
118. Members' attention was drawn to the External Auditors unqualified opinion on the Accounts and the AGS, and the Chair expressed her thanks to the officers involved in this achievement.

### **RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

119. The Committee Chair updated Members on the Resources & Performance Committee held on 5 September 2012, summarised as follows
- a presentation providing an overview of the Directorate, its people, resources and activities, was given by the Director of Strategy and Partnerships;
  - a presentation was given on the Wooded Heaths project, following by agreement for the project proceeding to Stage 2 of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant;
  - complementary to the report on the development of an Estates Strategy for the SDNPA, an estates presentation gave an insight into area offices and the Action Plan in place to address health & safety concerns; and
  - a review of criteria for procurement of Support Services would take place.

### **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO EXTERNAL BODIES**

120. There were no reports from members appointed to external bodies.

### **Chair**

Meeting closed at 3.20pm