

South Downs National Park Partnership: Role and mode of operation

Role

The National Park Authority exists with two purposes and one duty, in accordance with the Environment Act (1995):

Purpose 1: To preserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;

Purpose 2: To promote the opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park.

Duty: To foster the economic and social well-being of communities living within the National Park.

Whilst the National Park Authority itself is responsible for the delivery of the Purposes and Duty it is committed to working in partnership with stakeholders to achieve this.

The South Downs Partnership is made up of representatives from different sectors, all with an important stake in the future of the South Downs National Park.

The Partnership members work closely with each other, and with the South Downs National Park Authority itself, in order to:

1. use the specialist background of individual members to provide strategic advice to the SDNPA, forge new high-level collaborations and play an active role in reconciling conflicting perspectives amongst wider stakeholders;
2. help shape the development and implementation of the Partnership Management Plan and Local Plan, monitoring their delivery and working in task and finish sub-groups when appropriate;
3. act as ambassadors for the National Park, working for its success.

Mode of Operation

Frequency of Meetings

The Partnership meets three times a year, and in addition has two joint workshops per year with SDNPA Members.

Governance

Chair. The Partnership will be chaired by the SDNPA Chair.

Secretariat. The SDNPA will provide the secretariat for the Partnership.

Length of service. Partnership members will be asked to serve for eighteen months in the first instance.

Representation. The membership may be expanded to fill gaps in and ensure that there are no major sectors or groups of stakeholders have been missed.

Conduct

Members, including the SDNPA itself, will operate openly and transparently with each other and make best efforts to leave organisational positions behind.

Within the Partnership members will act in the best interests of the Park as a whole.

Partners will endeavour to keep each other apprised in advance of any communications or activities with significant relevance to the Park which are being planned by their own organisations;

The Partnership will achieve the most added value via the activities that take place between meetings, so it may wish to create a simple action plan for the year ahead.