

06 August 2019

Planning Policy & Conservation
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Dear Sir / Madam

Subject: South Downs National Park Authority response to the submission version of the Arundel Neighbourhood Plan Review .

This representation sets out the South Downs National Park Authority's (SDNPA) formal response to the submission version of the **Arundel Neighbourhood Plan Review** (ANDP). These are officer level comments prepared by SDNPA Planning Policy officers.

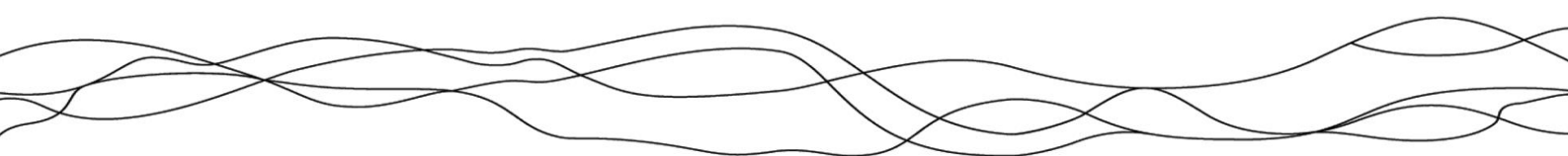
Arundel forms an important gateway to the South Downs National Park (SDNP) as identified in the South Downs Local Plan, which was adopted by the SDNPA on 2nd July 2019. Part of the town of Arundel is within the SDNP but the main settlement is located outside the SDNP and therefore Arun District Council are the lead Planning Authority for this neighbourhood plan. Section 62 of the Environment Act (1995) requires all relevant authorities including Arundel Town Council to have regard to the purposes of the National Park. These are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.

The SDNPA would like to commend the hard work and effort of the Neighbourhood Planning group and Arundel Town Council in the review of the ANDP. The SDNPA welcome the inclusion of policy AR9 and the ANDP recognition of the importance and value of a robust Green Infrastructure Network. The SDNPA welcome the designation of the Local Green Space at Canada road, in particular the recognition of the value of this space as part of a wider green infrastructure network.

At the Pre Submission stage of the Neighbourhood Plan the SDNPA raised concern regarding the allocation of land off Ford Road for approximately 90 dwellings. The Authority welcome the inclusion of further detail in Policy AR2, particularly clarification on the area of developable land. However, the Authority would prefer to see a scheme, which better respects the existing character of Arundel. Whilst the site is not within the National Park this area is currently contributing positively to the landscape setting of the National Park, alongside the river and the floodplain. A development which reflects the characteristic settlement pattern of Arundel at this location will contribute to conserving and enhancing the setting of the National Park. Amending the Plan in this way would be in line with the Section 62 duty to the town council.

Policy AR9 identifies a Green Infrastructure Network which comprises of public and private open space connected by a network of Public Rights of Way. However, the policies map does not identify footpath 206 which is an important part of the green infrastructure network as identified in the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy. The footpath is marked as an aspirational cycle route in the Arun Local Plan 2011 – 2031. Therefore it is suggested that this footpath is identified in policy AR9.



The comments are not matters which relate to the basic conditions for the purposes of a successful examination of a Neighbourhood Plan. However the comments do identify opportunities to make improvements to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Paterson', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Chris Paterson
Communities Lead

