



LAVANT NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 - 2032

Community Matters

Lavant Parish Council

March 2016

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.01 This document considers the matters which have been raised by the community during the Lavant Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP) consultation process but do not sit within the scope of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.02 This document is intended to help guide the Parish Council, residents and other stakeholders when determining future actions that may or may not occur as a result of the Lavant Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.03 It is recognised that many of the actions/projects detailed in this document will only occur with considerable help of volunteers from the community. Volunteers who have been crucial in the creation of the LNDP itself.
- 1.04 At the time of writing the local community is waiting the outcomes of a possible Northern Route for the A27. If this option were to be supported by Highways England it would have a profound effect on the roads in the Lavant Parish and implications for the LNDP Policies and Site Allocations.



2.0 Identification of parish projects

2.01 A number of issues raised throughout the process cannot, or can only partly be addressed by the NDP process. A number of projects to address these issues are set out in this document alongside details of who would implement it and how the project would be funded. They are split into the following categories:

1. Countryside and Environmental Projects
2. Community Wellbeing Projects
3. Business and Services projects
4. Road and Traffic projects

2.02 Implementing these projects will largely be down to the Lavant Parish Council (LPC) and at their discretion. It is suggested that the Council look to prioritise the projects listed against the following criteria, which is set out in no particular order:

- Availability of funding
- Local authority initiatives and grant funding cycles
- Parish Council workload commitment
- Availability of community volunteers
- Sufficient local support at the time of implementation

Countryside and Environmental projects

2.03 The following aspirations arose through the consultation process and are aimed to enhance and conserve Lavant's rural location.

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
Build on project done with 'Living Streets' e.g. by producing a local walks resource	To encourage health and wellbeing in the Parish	LPC Volunteers	LPC Grants
Nature Trails and Cycle routes.	To connect and improve maintained and signage. To encourage and promote areas of biodiversity and encourage preservation of wildlife and associated education.	LPC Volunteers	LPC Grants
Manage Flooding risks	Establish volunteer group to work with LPC help reduce flooding incidents.	LPC Volunteers	LPC Grants
Maintain public areas and areas of important biodiversity.	Review and monitor CDC Conservation Area Management Plan Encourage sympathetic and careful improvements.	LPC Volunteers	LPC Grants
Create an Emergency plan for flooding	Implement preventive measures to ensure the volume of flood water and area around the village green and Lavant estate is kept to a minimum.	LPC	

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
Noise abatement and mitigation	Review and Monitor Noise levels from Goodwood airfield and motor racing events Encourage regular communication and collaboration to mitigate noise nuisance.	LPC	LPC
Establish an Environmental volunteer group to monitor and record changes in the biodiversity and habits within the Lavant Valley to work with local land owners to improve local habits	Through the Lavant Environmental group we could increase the awareness of the importance of protecting habits and biodiversity.	LPC Volunteers	LPC Grants
Create closer links with SDNPA	Lavant is the 'gateway' village to SDNP. The consultation process revealed a desire in the Community to develop an increased usage and awareness of Lavant as part of and in partnership with SDNPA	LPC	LPC

Community Wellbeing Projects

2.04 The following aspirations arose through the Consultation Process and are aimed to address the balance between current housing development and the facilities available to the community and to enhance and conserve those facilities and the Village Community.

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
Community Hub facilities.	To investigate and promote options that would improve the range of community facilities in particular a shop and community hub.	LCS Group	Grants
New footpaths	Promote sustainable links between the three Villages, within the Villages and out from Lavant to SDNPA and Chichester. To improve the safety of pedestrians. To encourage the use of Community Facilities by enabling a variety of access routes.	LPC	LPC WSCC CDC SDNPA GRANTS
Hold a bi-annual Community Day	To promote the societies/organizations within the village and create a 'Sense of Community'. To encourage and motivate residents to take on active roles in the community. To Encourage community cohesion between village organizations.	LPC Volunteers	LPC Grants
Provision for teenagers leisure activities and wellbeing	Support and encourage the formation of locally based groups focused on the 7-16 age range. Explore through collaboration with teenagers / residents and community police, the provision of a teenage shelter and outdoor based	LPC. CDC Community Engagement team	S106/CIL/ other

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
	activities e.g. ball wall/ skateboard area. Work with Lavant football and cricket club in order to broaden young people's participation.	Volunteers Lavant Primary Sch. PCC	
Sport and leisure facility improvements.	Investigate and support future options to improve the range of facilities available, in particular cycle routes and football/ cricket pitches.	LPC Sports Assoc SDNPA	S106/CIL/ other
Memorial Hall	Upgrade facility to better serve the community	LPC Memorial Hall Committee	S106/CIL/ other
Health Service provision	To investigate options that would improve access to medical facilities.	LPC stakeholders	

Business and Services Projects

- 2.05 The following aspirations arose through the Consultation Process and are aimed to in a small, but important way to support local Businesses which are a part of a balanced community.

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
Promotion of the village as a gateway to the SDNP. Creation of Community and Business Noticeboards in a variety of locations.	Opportunity for local businesses and organizations to advertise services and events.	LPC SDNPA Volunteers to maintain and ensure relevance of notices.	SDNPA LPC and sponsorship from Local businesses

Road and traffic projects

- 2.06 As recorded in the Consultation Document this was an area of great concern to the Village, unfortunately much in relation to traffic speeds are beyond the scope of a NDP.
- 2.07 Whilst the Lavant Neighbourhood Development Plan cannot include policy proposals for development outside of the Plan area, new developments should not be looked at in isolation but for their potential combined impact and consideration given to the potential redistribution of traffic from the A286 on to minor roads (e.g. Pook Lane, Sheepwash Lane and West Stoke Road).

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
A286 speed reduction at entrances into Lavant from the north, south, east and west. Construct 'gateways' to engender a perception to	To reduce the speed of traffic entering Lavant	LPC WSCC H'ways SDNPA	Section 106/ CIL/other

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
drivers that they are entering a village and need to take care			
<p>Traffic speed reduction</p> <p>Introduce changes to design of road junctions and alignment, surface materials and verges at key locations to signal to drivers that the roads within the village are shared space (between traffic and the community)</p>	<p>Investigate options to reduce traffic speed down the length of the A286, down Sheepwash lane and Pook lane.</p> <p>Including:</p> <p><u>Junctions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A286/Eastmead Ind Est • Pook La/Sheepwash La • A286/ Sheepwash La • Pook La/Fordwater Rd <p><u>Alignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West side of A286 North of Eastmead Ind Est <p><u>Surface</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Gateway’ entrances to Lavant • A286 In vicinity of St Nic’s/school junction. • Earl of March • Access to Eastmead Ind Est <p><u>Verges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside Mulberry Hse • Allotments frontage • St Nic’s trees on boundary 	LPC WSCC H’ways	Section 106/ CIL/other
<p>Transport Project Adjacent to Yarbrook</p>	<p>Planning permission for development of the Eastmead Industrial Estate is likely to increase traffic congestion or impact safety at the junction with the A286 unless appropriate contributions are made towards measures by WSCC Highways to implement improvements. This would need to resolve the on street parking issues relating to Yarbrook and could involve the construction of a new roundabout (the realignment of the A286 at this junction) as well as re-surfacing consistent with the principles put forward in Consultation with WSHighways /CDC</p>	LPC WSCC H’ways	Section 106/ CIL/other
<p>Transport project adjacent to St Nicholas’ church at junction with West Stoke Road</p>	<p>Planning permission for developments in the vicinity of this junction is likely to increase traffic congestion or impact safety unless appropriate contributions are made towards measures by WSCC Highways to implement improvements.</p>	LPC WSCC H’ways	Section 106/ CIL/other

PROJECT / ASPIRATION	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
Transport project adjacent to the mini roundabout at the south end of Lavant	Planning permission for developments in the vicinity of this junction is likely to increase traffic congestion of impact safety unless appropriate contributions are made towards measures by WSCC Highways to implement improvements.	LPC WSCC H'ways	Section 106/ CIL/other
Transport project at junction of Sheepwash Lane and Pook Lane, at junction of Pook Lane and Fordwater Road and at junction of A286 and Sheepwash Lane	LPC would like to use contributions from developments to investigate the viability of and implementing the reconfiguring /resurfacing of the highway at these junctions and elsewhere consistent with the LNDP proposals to mitigate the impact of the road users on the community and to introduce the concept of 'shared space'.	LPC WSCC H'ways	Section 106/ CIL/other
Improve village parking	Increase and enhance current parking areas to reduce congestion and improve road safety in key areas (e.g. Memorial Hall).	LPC WSCC H'ways	Section 106/ CIL/other
Improve residents parking on estates	Review current land use to reduce on-road parking congestion and promote more efficient parking	LPC WSCC H'ways Hyde Martlet Residents	Section 106/ CIL/other
School traffic	Investigate options to alleviate current congestion associated with school drop-off and pick-up	LPC WSCC H'ways Primary School	Section 106/ CIL/other
Verge maintenance	Review verges in conjunction with improvements to highway design to suggest a shared (traffic/ community) space	LPC WSCC H'ways	Section 106/ CIL/other
Signage	Improve signage for Goodwood events and generally to indicate to drivers that they are sharing the roads with residents	LPC WSCC H'ways Goodwood	Section 106/ CIL/other

2.08 This project below has been included as a response to the strongly held feeling by some in the village that a Bypass is the only way to fully deal with an anticipated increase in volume, size and speed of traffic through the village due to the impact of CDC's Local Plan, in particular the development at White House Farm. Consultation on this issue is recorded in the Consultation

POTENTIAL PROJECT	JUSTIFICATION	WHO	FUNDING
<p>Note: Whilst a relief road for Lavant is not currently supported by the majority of residents or the LPC, should traffic volumes and the associated nuisance increase beyond acceptable levels (as determined by the community) then this concept may be pursued by LPC.</p> <p>A 1.6 km relief road (RR) on a north/south alignment to the west of Mid Lavant.</p>	<p>The RR would permit diversion of the A 286 at a point to the south of its junction with Raughmere Drive and follow a line, west over Centurion Way and then north to rejoin the A 286 immediately to the north of Yarbrook.</p> <p>It is also envisioned that the RR might provide opportunities for the community to benefit from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land for a wide range of community uses e.g. primary school extension, car parking space, additional allotments, nursery, youth meeting place, community building with shop, meeting rooms, outreach Doctors Surgery and informal public open space • Creation of a focal point in the village; • Housing land to meet present and 10-15 years projected local social housing needs; • 20mph speed limit and scope for creative traffic calming and environmental enhancement on the existing A 286 carriageway • Creation of an attractive southern gateway to the SDNP • Avoidance of the need for 'cramming' further housing development within the built up areas of the village • Avoiding development on existing green spaces within the village fabric • Clear definition of the western settlement boundary to Mid Lavant • Clarity of vision for the long term 20, 30, 40 years future of Mid Lavant. 	<p>LPC WSCC H'ways SDNPA</p>	<p>Section 106 /CIL/other</p>

3.0 Assets of Community Value

3.01 Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 provide for district and unitary councils to maintain a list of assets of community value, which can be either land or buildings, nominated by local community groups or parish councils. When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, the Act then gives local community groups the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it comes on the open market. The scheme is also known as the community right to bid. The Government has said that the aim of the measure is as follows:

“...to give many more communities the opportunity to take control of assets and facilities in their neighbourhoods by levelling the playing field [and] by providing the time for them to prepare a proposal.”¹

- 3.02 When a nomination is made it must include the following information:
- A description of the nominated land including its proposed boundaries. These boundaries do not have to be the same as ownership boundaries, for instance as shown on the Land Registry plan if the land is registered; nor is it necessary for all parts of the nominated site to be in the same ownership.
 - Any information the nominator has about the freeholders, leaseholders and current occupants of the site.
 - The reasons for nominating the asset, explaining why the nominator believes the asset meets the definition in the Act.
 - The nominator’s eligibility to make the nomination.
- 3.03 The LNDP includes a policy aimed at protecting Assets of Community Value through the planning process (Policy LNDP12). This is important as the actual legal listing does not place any additional national planning controls on the asset, so this is being done through the NDP process.
- 3.04 Currently the Parish has the good fortune to own some key Community Faculties which are listed below simply as a matter of record.
- 3.05 There are currently no Assets of Community Value within the Parish however an initial review has identified a number of assets that could be nominated by the Parish Council for listing. This is to be taken forward outside of the NDP process.
- 3.06 The following are identified as assets that could be nominated by the parish council for listing:

Asset	Information
Amphitheatre area to west of Centurion Way. Owned and maintained by: Mr. Mortimer the landowner	Used by: this large green space is used by many local residents (from Lavant and further afield) for walking, dog-walking and general recreation. Significance: this land is on the edge of the parish easily accessible via Centurion Way and is an area of tranquility and natural beauty, which is highly valued and enjoyed by many on a daily basis.
Green open spaces on Lavant Down Road Owned by CDC	This land provides natural breaks between the surrounding houses and creates a feeling of openness within the housing estate. The plot at the bottom end of the road in particular provides a natural green transition

¹ DCLG, [Assets of Community Value – Policy Statement](#), 2011

Asset	Information
	“gateway” to Centurion Way from the north-eastern edge of the village and out into the surrounding countryside.
Old Electric Substation located to the north of Lavant Down Road Ownership is unknown at present	This small building has become a local landmark and is currently used by local residents for their curtain and soft furnishings business. It is a quirky feature that could usefully be used by the community for a variety of purposes including a community base if it became available.
Land to north of Lavant Down Road Owned by CDC	This land marks the northern settlement boundary and facilitates valued views across to the SDNP.
Green triangular open space at top of St Nicholas’ Road Owned by Hyde Marlett Housing Association	This land provides a natural break between the residential area of St Nicholas’ Road and the A286 (main Chichester to Midhurst Road), providing protection against the noise and dangers of the road and affords views across to the open allotment gardens space.
LAND: Green open space south of St Mary’s Church Owned by Mr. Locke	This land affords views of the 12C Grade 1 listed church and forms part of its historic and Village setting. It has been included in the Heritage Assets Assessment
Maddox Wood Owned by Seaward Properties	This Wood is an area of natural Biodiversity and has a TOP for the whole area. It could in the future be a facility used for both educational and leisure purposes by the Community. it also functions as a natural boundary to make the Strategic Gap between Chichester and Lavant as identified in the Open Spaces Assessment of the LPC
The Royal Oak Pub East Lavant Owned by The Compleat Food & Drink Company Ltd. Co. Registration Number: 6233412 Registered Address: Wey Court West, Union Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7TP	This pub offers benefits to the Community for two reasons. It is used by local residents and by many visitors and as such contributes to the business and tourism balance of the community.
The Earl of March Pub Owner Giles Thompson	This pub offers benefits to the Community for two reasons. It is used by local residents and by many visitors and as such contributes to the business and tourism balance of the community.

3.07 The following are part owned or leased by the parish, as such there may not be a need to nominate them but they are included below for consideration by the Parish Council:

Asset	Information
The Village Green Part owned by the LPC, part is also leased on an annual peppercorn rent from	Used by: the Green is used by all sections of the community at different times for sporting activities (cricket has been played here since 1628), the annual village fete, dog walkers, visitors, walkers, and as an extension of the village hall during events.

Asset	Information
<p>Goodwood Estate. The Green is subject to bye-laws which came into operation on the 7th September 1992. The Green was registered under the 1965 Act as a Village Green in 1967 and amended in 1971.</p>	<p>Maintained by: LPC through the local Lavant Volunteer Force and paid part-time help. Funded by: LPC Significance: the Village Green is arguably one of the village's two most valued assets. An historical provision over centuries, the green is also the site of a memorial to the fallen of WWII. Several trees on the Green are subject to Tree Preservation Orders.</p>
<p>BUILDING: Lavant Memorial Hall LPC is the Custodian Trustee of the Memorial Hall set up as a charity in 1951 after an earlier deed of gift from the Goodwood Estate.</p>	<p>This has been included in the list as the Ownership of the Hall via the Trusteeship is currently unclear. The land on which the Hall is sited belongs to LPC. Used by: the hall is almost continually used/rented out to a wide variety of different interest groups that villagers of all ages attend; as well as for private bookings for weddings, parties, drama productions, etc. Maintained by: volunteers and paid professional trades as appropriate. Funded by: self-funding with occasional community grants. Significance: the village hall is the other most highly valued community asset, originally built with funds raised from the village to commemorate the fallen of WWI. It has recently undergone a major kitchen renovation, which enhances its future rental capabilities and further improvements are planned. This is the primary centre for social activities in the village.</p>
<p>Plot adjacent to the Memorial Hall car park LPC has a license to occupy this land dated 22nd May 2000 on a peppercorn rent basis from Landowner Mr. Locke.</p>	<p>Used by: by all those visiting the LMH or the Village Green. Maintained by: LPC through the local Lavant Volunteer Force Funded by: LPC Significance: this plot of land is regarded as an extension to the LMH car park, and used on a daily basis for this purpose. This asset should be viewed in conjunction with the LMH itself.</p>
<p>Village Pond and the surrounding area. LPC has a 99 year lease, from Goodwood Estate, dated from 1999 to maintain this site.</p>	<p>Used by: this site is visited by many coming to the village Green and surrounding areas. Maintained by: LPC through the local Lavant Volunteer Force, under the direction of a paid and officially accredited Pond Warden. Funded by: LPC Significance: this is a site of natural biodiversity significance, and home to Great Crested Newts. This site lies immediately adjacent to the Village Green and forms part of the hall/green/pond/river leisure facilities area.</p>
<p>"Top Field" (Football Field) LPC signed an annual lease with Mr. Locke to maintain the 'top field' for the purposes of village sport in 2006-7 and this arrangement</p>	<p>Used by: Lavant FC for its regular fixtures and training. It is also used by Lavant Memorial Hall for parking facilities during large events. Maintained by: LPC through the local Lavant Volunteer Force. Funded by: LPC Significance: This site is listed as a possible site for development, subject to landowner permission, and comments from some villagers have only been supportive of this possibility on the understanding that another suitable site is found for football, etc. However, the majority of villagers would prefer to see this site remain undeveloped.</p>

Asset	Information
continues under an annual review.	

3.08 It is not considered necessary to consider the assets identified below as they are already owned by the Parish Council.

Asset	Information
<p>Allotment gardens Set up as a charity – purchased on a conveyance between Lavant Parish Council (LPC) and the Goodwood Estate (GW) in 1957. From 2004 full responsibility for these allotment gardens was handed over to the newly formed Lavant Valley Allotment Association (LVAA).</p>	<p>Used by: residents of Lavant (and other neighbouring residents if there is capacity) although Lavant residents take priority on the waiting list. There is a dedicated plot for the children that attend Lavant Primary School, and raised beds for the less physically able.</p> <p>Maintained by: the LVAA is run by its members on a voluntary basis, and maintenance is by the allotment holders themselves.</p> <p>Funded by: self-funded, with occasional community grants.</p> <p>Significance: the allotments are a valued asset by many members of the village, situated in the geographical centre of the village opposite St Nicholas' Church. In progressing the LNDDP, there have been many demands that the allotment site remains untouched by future development and available for continued community use.</p>
<p>BUILDING: Tractor shed</p>	<p>Used by: LPC for the storage of the tractor/mower for upkeep of the Village Green.</p> <p>Maintained by: LPC</p> <p>Funded by: LPC</p> <p>Significance: this is a small building physically attached to the LMH, and vital for essential equipment storage. It is insufficient for existing needs and investigations are currently being undertaken to extend this provision through an additional store, which would be built by the Lavant Volunteer Force</p>
<p>LAND: Children's Play Area LPC has a responsibility to maintain this site as a sole trustee of the Charity set up as the Lavant Recreational Trust in 1997.</p>	<p>Used by: Children of all ages use this facility, providing safe play areas for toddlers through to teenagers. Families use the picnic and general green areas.</p> <p>Maintained by: LPC through the local Lavant Volunteer Force, and subject to regular H&S audits.</p> <p>Funded by: LPC, via the Recreational Trust, with occasional community grants.</p> <p>Significance: this is the only formal play area in the village and as such an essential space for the younger members of the community. The playground recently underwent a considerable overhaul, including the replacement of some equipment and installation of modern new equipment, which was purchased after consulting with the local families. This has been greatly appreciated and usage has recently increased. Grassy space is also available for free-format play. Picnic tables and benches are also available with views over to the Lavant Valley.</p>

4.0 New public footpaths

- 4.01 Lavant's location at the foot of the Downs and separate from Chichester is a much valued quality. A key feature of this rural setting is the many footpath and bridle path links. The Parish of Lavant consists of three separate Villages, with the community facilities scattered between them. For example, The Memorial Hall and Football field is in East Lavant, while the Allotments and the Primary School are in Mid Lavant. There is no doubt these footpaths contribute to the village identity and the residents wellbeing in many ways.
- 4.02 All of the footpaths around Lavant are well used by both residents and visitors. Historically footpaths were created organically through regular use and served the purpose of connecting areas of population and services. Over time, of course, the route of the footpaths has been affected by vehicular transport and a need for new routes has arisen due to both the dangers posed by vehicle usage and to connect to new areas of housing development. In addition walking and cycling has become a popular leisure and fitness activity, as such there is a need to update and improve Lavant's footpath system. Likewise the volume, speed and size, particularly of lorries has created the need for pavements to be improved.
- 4.03 The issue of footpaths arose right from the very first Community consultation meeting in October 2013 and has remained an issue throughout the consultation process.

- 4.04 After much consideration three required routes have been identified and a policy has been included to promote these routes (Policy LNDP18) within the LNDP, and the approximate routes are shown on the LNDP Map. Whilst it is acknowledged that the policy will not necessarily ensure these routes are provided, it provides support for the identified routes to be provided. These main routes are:

Lavant Road to the Memorial Hall (along Pook Lane)

- 4.05 There is no footpath along Pook Lane and thus no pedestrian access from the A286 to the Village Hall. Furthermore, there is no access to the Devil's Dyke as it is 'stranded' on privately owned land. Currently only informal access is granted by the owner.
- 4.06 There are ownership issues associated with delivery as the only route possible is on privately owned land.
- 4.07 The optimum route on the ground would be alongside Devil's Dyke. A route alongside the road is not considered appropriate in view of the level difference.
- 4.08 The development policy for this site incorporates a requirement that a footpath would be provided as part of any development

Mid Lavant to East Lavant

- 4.09 It is considered that there is no safe pedestrian route as the footpath is narrow and runs very close to the A286. During consultation an alternative route has been identified.
- 4.10 There are ownership issues associated with delivery albeit that these are not considered insurmountable. Part of the land (the copse) adjacent to Marsh Lane is privately owned but has been previously used for a community facility. The remainder of the land is owned by the Church Commissioners.

- 4.11 The likely route on the ground is from Marsh Lane bridge, through the small copse and alongside the river to a new bridge providing access to Churchmead.
- 4.12 Funding would be via grants, sponsorship and developer contributions if appropriate.

Fordwater Road

- 4.13 The carriageway has no footpath and is dangerous for pedestrians to walk from East Lavant to Fordwater that provides access to/from Chichester.
- 4.14 The land is privately owned but there is provision in the Site Specific Policy for the development of Church Farm Barns to provide this facility. The land is in the same ownership.
- 4.15 The likely route on the ground is alongside the hedge in the field to the west of the road.
- 4.16 The work is likely to be funded from developer contributions arising from the development of Church Farm Barns.

5.0 Biodiversity in Lavant

- 5.01 There is a strong desire within Lavant's community to conserve and enhance the landscape character of the parish. An intrinsic part of this landscape character is its diverse biodiversity. This diverse biodiversity consist of important ecological sites and corridors, hedgerows, verges, ditches and key species within these habitats.
- 5.02 A number of species and their habitats are protected by National and European law. As such there are existing requirements where developments likely to impact protected species to first carry out ecological surveys prior to any application being made, and then when protected species are found to incorporate suitable mitigation (such as provision of bat boxes or alternative habitat).
- 5.03 In addition, a license from Natural England is required if a plan could disturb or remove wildlife or damage habitats. License is required if works are intended to:
- prevent damage to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, property or archaeology
 - protect public health and safety e.g. demolishing an unsafe derelict building that hosts a bat roost
 - maintain or develop land e.g. converting farmland or a brownfield site to housing
 - prevent disease among species
 - keep or release species not native to England
 - sell, own, exhibit or transport protected species
 - survey for the presence of wildlife on your land for science or educational research or for conservation work

Potential extension of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

- 5.04 A large swathe of the Parish has been identified as the Lavant Watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA). This covers approximately 1686 hectares (including an area outside of the parish, there is a great deal of potential for its enhancement. The Lavant River supports at least 55 species, including known populations of Water Vole and Great Crested Newts, both species of which are protected by UK and European legislation. In addition, Part of the Walderton to Welldown including Kingley Vale BOA crosses the northwestern corner of the parish and the Fishbourne and Chalk Streams BOA abuts the southwestern boundary.
- 5.05 Within the Lavant valley there are many different approaches to the management of the land and local habits. These range from places where meadows are allowed to grow naturally resulting in an abundance of wild flowers and a supporting number of rodents; these areas become good feeding grounds for barn owls and other species. Unfortunately there other areas where fields have been and are intensively cropped. Field margins have been lost and there is heavy usage of insecticides and herbicides – these cause damage to the biodiversity of the surrounding area and the River Lavant. In addition to the effects of these intensive farming methods, over the years Lavant has noted a loss in the number and range of bird species from the valley: possibly also due to change in farming methods.

- 5.06 The parish acts as an important biodiversity conduit between SDNP and the Chichester plain and much of this key area is considered to be incorporated into the Lavant Watershed BOA. However, the BOA does not currently encompass the land to the north of Mid Lavant between the A286 and the River Lavant. It is considered that this area forms part of the core Biodiversity Corridor between SDNP to the north and the Chichester plain to the south.
- 5.07 Whilst this plan contains a policy relating to BOA's, the extent of BOA's is designated by the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership. This is a group that contains representatives from a range of organisations including conservation bodies, local government and statutory agencies working together to conserve and enhance the habitats and species of Sussex.
- 5.08 It is recommended that Lavant Parish Council, on behalf of the Community, contact the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership and request that the Lavant Watershed BOA be extended to include the land north of Mid Lavant between the A286 and the River Lavant.