

## LOCAL PLAN NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Local Plan Newsletter for the South Downs National Park. This issue focuses on evidence base studies to support the Local Plan. We will be publishing several evidence base studies over the next few weeks. Links to these studies will be posted on: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/national-park-local-plan/evidence-and-supporting-documents/>. Please read on for more details...

### Tranquillity assessment

'Tranquil and unspoilt places' are one of the identified Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park. This study uses a proven survey methodology to assess and map the relative tranquillity across the Park. It finds that the National Park contains some highly tranquil areas that need to be preserved, and highlights other areas that may be highly susceptible to changes brought about by increased noise and visual impacts.



Visitors arriving at YHA South Downs, near Beddingham

### Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are the benefits people and society get from the natural environment. This study draws on a wide range of environmental datasets, including soils, geology, wildlife and habitat data, to produce maps that show which areas have the most capacity to produce ecosystem services and which areas have the most demand for them. It then overlays these maps to show where capacity and demand coincide, and where there is currently an unmet demand.

It also maps 'hotspots' which are those areas with a relatively high Ecosystem Service function in comparison with its surroundings as well as areas that deliver multiple functions. This highlights areas where it is desirable to protect, maintain or improve the delivery of ecosystem services.

### Authority Monitoring Report

The second Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for the South Downs National Park Authority reports on the financial year 2016-17 including the progress on local plan documents, Duty to Cooperate and neighbourhood development plans. The AMR considers the performance of existing and emerging policies across the National Park, and trends against various indicators affected by the planning process. It is now becoming possible to measure trends against some indicators. Notable points include:

- 29.3km of new or improved non-motorised multi user routes were delivered.
- Planning permission was granted for 13 new, replacement or extended community halls or community sports facilities
- There is an up-to-date five year supply of deliverable housing sites in the South Downs National Park, both against the proposed requirements in the South Downs Local Plan and against the requirements for specific areas of the National Park set out in Joint Core Strategies.
- A net total of 262 new dwellings was completed in the year.

### Local Plan Transport Assessment

This document assesses the impact of the Local Plan's proposed development in Petersfield, Liss, Midhurst and Petworth, and at the former Syngenta site, on traffic flows through key junctions. It finds that the traffic impact of the development proposed in the Local Plan will be acceptable or can be made acceptable for all junctions assessed.

The traffic impacts of future development in Lewes has already been assessed through work on the Joint Core Strategy.

### Employment Land Review

A site focused update of the Employment Land Review (ELR) provides updated, detailed information on the supply of existing and potential employment sites across the National Park. The study makes policy recommendations on the allocation and safeguarding of employment sites in the Local Plan.

### Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Background Paper

A paper has been prepared bringing together the results of a number of studies and pieces of work completed in recent years across the National Park in relation to Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites. It looks at the level of need for such sites, how sites have been identified and how they have been assessed leading ultimately to their proposal for allocation.

Information from this paper will now feed into the consideration of which sites to allocate in the South Downs Local Plan.



### SHLAA

The National Park Authority has prepared a new Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which updates the previous SHLAA published in 2015. Planning officers have assessed over 500 sites, following a call for sites in Autumn 2015 and reconsideration of sites identified previous to this. Information from the new SHLAA will now feed into the consideration of which sites to allocate for housing in the South Downs Local Plan.

### Settlement Policy Boundaries

The 2015 Settlement boundaries Review has been updated, taking into account comments received at Preferred Options consultation and the proposed allocation of development sites. As well as multiple changes to the proposed boundaries for existing settlements, this update includes for the first time proposed revisions to the boundaries of Steep, Findon and Washington, and new boundaries for Slindon and Owslebury.

### Local Green Space Assessment

The NPA has assessed all nominations that were put forward for designation as LGS as part of the LP consultation in 2015. These green areas need to be demonstrably special to the local community for reasons of beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife.

### New look newsletter

From 2017, the South Downs Local Plan newsletter is changing. As well as continuing to share regular updates on the progress of our Local Plan, we will also be including stories about our wider planning work. You will receive the first edition of the new quarterly Planning Newsletter in Spring 2017. To make sure that it doesn't get lost in your junk mail, please add [newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk) to your contact list.

## Neighbourhood Planning Update

The following neighbourhood groups have reached key milestones in preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP):

Neighbourhood Development Plans for the following parishes have been 'made' by the National Park Authority since July and now form part of the Development Plan for the National Park:

**Albourne**

**Aldingbourne**

**Findon**

**Hamsey**

Congratulations to all the many people who worked on those plans. This brings the total number of completed plans within the National Park to 16.

**Amberley, Hassocks** and **Woodmandcote** NDPs have undergone Regulation 16 submission consultation which is the final stage before the examination of the plans by an independent Inspector.

The NDP for **Storrington, Sullington & Washington** and **Patching** has undergone Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation and those for **Bury** and **Ditchling, Westmeston & Streat** are currently out for consultation.

We are expecting a particularly busy few months as plans for **Petworth, Liss, Twyford, East Meon, Lewes, Lavant** and **Fittleworth** reach key milestones.

More information on Neighbourhood Development Plans, including guidance and updates on the progress of Plans across the National Park, is available at [www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning). In addition a quarterly update on the progress of all neighbourhood plans is presented to Planning Committee and can be viewed via the committee web pages. The next report is to be presented at the January Planning Committee.



*Bridge carrying the South Downs Way across the A26 at Southease*

For more information on the Local Plan and other planning policy news go to [www.southdowns.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/localplan)

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You are being sent this newsletter, because we thought you may be interested in receiving information on the Local Plan. If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact us at [planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk) or phone 01730 814810.