

**SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
POLICY & PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING 28 FEBRUARY 2017**

Held at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, Midhurst at 2.00pm

Present:

Ken Bodfish (Chair)	Janet Duncton	Mark Dunn	Jo Carr
Helen Jackson	Dan Humphreys		
Margaret Paren (ex officio)	Norman Dingemans (ex officio)		
Other SDNPA Members:			
Neville Harrison	Heather Baker		

SDNPA Officers: Andrew Lee (Director of Countryside Policy and Management), Trevor Beattie (Chief Executive), Louise Read (Monitoring Officer), Steven Bedford (Principal Accountant), Alan Brough (Head of Business Services) and Robin Parr (Head of Governance).

Also attended by: Veronica Craddock (Infrastructure and Environment Strategy Lead)

**OPENING REMARKS**

126. The Chair welcomed all those present and stated that:
- SDNPA Members have a primary responsibility for ensuring that the Authority furthers the National Park Purposes and Duty. Members regards themselves first and foremost as Members of the Authority, and will act in the best interests of the National Park as a whole, rather than as representatives of their appointing body or any interest groups.

**ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

127. 24 Apologies were received from Phillip Ede, Sue Saville and Pete West.

**ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

128. Jo Carr declared a personal interest in Item 13 as the neighbour of a farm identified for possible sale.

**ITEM 3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2016**

129. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**ITEM 4 : MATTERS ARISING**

130. There were none

**ITEM 5: UPDATES ON PREVIOUS COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

131. There were none.

**ITEM 6: URGENT MATTERS**

132. There were none

**ITEM 7: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

133. There were none.

**ITEM 8 NEED FOR PART II EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

134. It was proposed and seconded to exclude any Press and Public during consideration of items 12 & 13 on the basis that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Authority, , and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, Following a vote the proposal was carried.
135. **RESOLVED:** That the Committee move into Part 11 (private session) for consideration of item 23 and 13 and exclude any members of the public and press from the meeting at that time.
136. At this juncture Authority Member Heather Baker left the meeting

## ITEM 9: HOUSING WHITE PAPER

137. The Committee considered report PP05/17 by the Director of Planning.
138. The Committee commented:
- That it would be appropriate to make a joint response along with other National Parks, under the auspice of National Parks England, however there may be a need to make further points where the impact upon the South Downs may be different from other National Parks.
  - The SDNPA may want to make specific comments in relation to CIL, affordable Housing and housing market assessment as not all National Parks were affected by these issues to the same degree as the SDNP.
  - Points raised at the recent landowners conference concerning the ability to progress small schemes needed to be reflected in the response and The Authority's current affordable housing work could potentially be put forward as a pilot to address rural affordable housing issues.
139. **RESOLVED:** that the Committee:
- 1) Considered the impacts of the Housing White Paper for the South Downs National Park; and
  - 2) That the points raised by the committee in its discussions be forwarded to the NPA for consideration in its contribution to the NPE response to the Housing White paper.

## ITEM 10: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

140. The Committee considered a verbal report from the Director of Planning who advised that:
- The Landowners' conference had been attended by 120 people and had been very positively received.
  - A number of common themes, such as use of redundant buildings, whole estate plans and a desire to not see a reduction of available affordable housing through right to buy were now being taken forward.
  - Although the Authority had recently lost the member of staff who was driving this work forward work was still ongoing and external expertise was being sought
141. In response to questions the Committee was advised that:
- The idea of having a standard design for affordable housing was being considered but needed to be carefully managed.
  - The business case was currently being considered by the finance team and work was underway to tender for the necessary skills required to take this work forward, in the absence of any dedicated resource
  - Timescales were dependent upon securing the necessary resource but all was being done to recruit suitable staff and not lose momentum
142. **RESOLVED:** That the Affordable Housing update was noted

## ITEM 11: Green Infrastructure framework (GIF)

143. Following the informal member workshop in the morning the Committee considered report PP04/17 by the Director of Countryside and Policy Management.
144. The Committee commented that:
- It would be necessary to get the buy in of local authority members and thought needed to be given to helping them to understand and champion the framework
  - There was a need to be clear and concise in terms of messaging around the framework and try to provide a clearer definition of green infrastructure and a more compelling over narrative to help understanding by a wider audience.
  - There were some gaps identified in the framework, including the chalk which was currently underrepresented in the GI investment opportunity areas.
  - Further work was needed before the document went out, however there was strength

in delivering this framework with partners. It was stressed that the framework does form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan but also has many wider applications in terms of the delivery of the Partnership Management Plan, our work with landowners etc.

145. **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:

- 1) Noted the current draft of the GIF attached as appendix 1 & 2 to the report and commented on the proposed amendments to be made to the framework prior to consultation as set out at paragraph 2.3 of this report
- 2) Noted the proposed consultation to be undertaken with Local Authority Partners on the GIF in May /June 2017; and
- 3) Noted that the GIF will be presented to the P&P committee post consultation for recommendation to the NPA for formal approval

146. At this juncture the committee moved into private session

**ITEM 12: EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2017**

147. The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**ITEM 13 DOWNLAND SALES**

148. The Authority received an update from the Chief Executive on the proposed Downland Sales by Eastbourne Borough Council and Brighton and Hove City Council

**CHAIR**

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

