

Report PCI9/20-56

Report to	Director of Planning
Date	6 May 2020
By	Senior Planning Policy Officer
Title of Report	Half Year Update on the Progress of Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose of Report	To update Members of the progress of Neighbourhood Development Plans across the South Downs National Park

Recommendation: The Director of Planning is recommended to note the progress to date on the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans across the National Park.

I. Summary

- I.1 Support for neighbourhood planning and the volunteers who contribute so much is a very important aspect of the South Downs National Park Authority's role. Once Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) have successfully passed a community referendum, they become part of the Development Plan for the National Park, alongside the South Downs Local Plan (SDLP) policies and minerals and waste plans. They are also subsequently 'made' i.e. adopted by the National Park Authority (NPA). NDP's reflect the vision and aims of the local community and will help to deliver the objectives and strategy of the SDLP by making positive provision for development, in line with the Local Plan's development strategy. Once made they are used to determine planning applications within the parish and with 31 made NDPs of which two have been reviewed and re-made now in place across the National Park focus is increasingly on the implementation of these community-led plans.
- I.2 These reports are produced twice a year for presentation at Planning Committee as some responses on NDPs are made by Officers under delegated powers. This update enables Members to be aware of the breadth of NDP's across the National Park as well as the work officers are undertaking with respect to progressing these. The reports will also be used to inform the Authority Monitoring Report published at the end of the year.
- I.3 Some of the main highlights over the past 6 months are:
- Seaford NDP successfully passed community referendum on 6 February 2020 and was subsequently made part of the SDNPA's development plan for the part of the parish within the South Downs National Park at March Planning Committee.
 - Hassocks NDP successfully passed community referendum on 5 March 2020 and will be made part of the SDNPA's development plan for the part of the parish within the South Downs National Park Authority.
 - The Fittleworth NDP successfully passed Referendum on 7 November 2019, with 84% of those voting, voting in favour of the plan. The FNDP was subsequently made under Delegated Authority on 20 December 2019 and is now forms part of the SDNPA development plan.

- The Decision Statement on the Update to the Findon NDP (FNDP) was agreed at January's Committee Meeting. The Decision Statement set out modifications to be made in response to the Examiner's Report issued to the SDNPA in November. The modifications put forward by the Examiner meant the Updated FNDP was not materially different from the original FNDP. Therefore the plan did not require a second Referendum because the changes were considered minor modifications according to the National Planning Practise Guidance.
- The Stedham with Iping NDP passed Examination and the plans Decision Statement was agreed at January's Planning Committee. The Decision Statement set out modifications made in the Examiners Report issued to the SDNPA in October 2019. The SNDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Chichester District Council Electoral Services team, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.
- Officer comments were made on the pre-submission (Regulation 14) version of Twyford NDP, these were agreed at February's Planning Committee.
- Delegated officer comments were made to the Regulation 16 Henfield NDP.
- The Update to the Arundel Neighbourhood Development Plan proceeded to Referendum on 19th November 2019. 80% of those who voted, voted in favour of the update to the ANDP. The updated Arundel NDP is part of the Development Plan of the SDNPA for the part of the Arundel Parish within the South Downs National Park.

A summary of the current status of NDPs across the National Park is provided in Table 1:

Table 1: Status of NDPs as of May 2020

Stage	Total NDPs	SDNPA lead
Made	31	15
Submission (Reg 16) and Examination	8	3
Pre-submission (Reg 14) draft	6	2
Designated neighbourhood areas	56 (inc. Sheet, and Singleton which have abandoned)	22

1.4 Reports relating to NDPs presented to Planning Committee over the last 6 months are listed in the following section of this report. Key areas of work carried out under delegated powers by the Authority since 1 November 2019 are set out in Appendix 1 of this report. Details of all the made NDPs are also provided in the appendix.

2. Planning Committee

2.1 In the last 6 months the following reports were considered by Planning Committee:

- Making of the Seaford NDP (March 2020) and Appendix 2
- SDNPA response to the Pre-Submission of the Twyford NDP (February 2020), Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- SDNPA's Decision Statement on the Stedham with Iping NDP (January 2020)
- SDNPA's Decision Statement on the update to Findon NDP (January 2020)

3. Resource implications

3.1 The SDNPA receives funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) to support work on neighbourhood planning, known as the New Burdens Grant. The cost of Neighbourhood Planning to the SDNPA (excluding staff costs) is normally covered by the grant. A table listing the made NDPs in the South Downs National Park is shown at the end of Appendix 1 of this report.

- 3.2 There are further emerging NDPs yet to be ‘made’ in the National Park. All of these are NDPs for villages where the cost of examination and referendum is unlikely to exceed the available grant.
- 3.3 As NDPs come up for review, the SDNPA is able to use MHCLG funding to cover the cost of reviews proportionate to the scope of review undertaken.

4. Other Activity

- 4.1 Since April 2017, officers have been working with parishes and local planning authorities outside the National Park to share best practice through our Specialist Advisory Service. Currently this includes the following work:
- Rudgwick – prepared Local Green Spaces Report as part of their Evidence Base for consultation.
 - Ewhurst and Ellens Green – supporting the Qualifying Body in the preparation of their NDP (Health Check) and summarising representations.
 - Egerton – Continued support on policy drafting support and working towards Regulation 14 consultation (Ashford Borough Council).
 - Horsham District Council – The Specialist Advisory Service won a year’s contract with HDC in November 2019 to support all their NDPs. We were initially asked to support 13, but after an initial meeting with officers this was increased to 15 (including one Business Neighbourhood Forum). HDC had asked all the Qualifying Bodies to reach at least Regulation 14 by December 2019 to be in line with their Local Development Scheme. Since January, Officers have been liaising with Neighbourhood Planning groups and attending introductory meetings, liaising with officers at Horsham District Council, and more recently responding to Examiner’s Questions and Pre-submission/Submission consultations on behalf of HDC. As part of the Southwater NDP Examination, Lucy Howard prepared Position Statements and represented the Council at the Examination Hearing on 28 February.

5. Coronavirus/COVID-19

- 5.1 The South Downs National Park Authority has been following the latest Government advice on the ongoing Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings with qualifying bodies are being held online via telecoms and video-chats. Officers are still doing their utmost to offer support and guidance to communities during these difficult times.
- 5.2 Planning Practice Guidance provides advice for Communities and Planning Authorities planning public consultations relating to Neighbourhood Plans. The advice asks Authorities and communities to consider the Governments current guidance on staying at home and away from others before running Regulation 14 or Regulation 16 Consultations. Given the guidance from MHCLG the South Downs National Park Authority has taken the decision to suspend any public consultations relating to Neighbourhood Planning documents given their nature and the timeframes involved. This decision will be kept under review and amended should circumstances change.

Referendums

- 5.3 Recently the government updated the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations on Referendums: the update can be found [here](#). Part 3 Regulation 13 states that any Neighbourhood Plan Referendum that would have been held during the relevant period affected, will be held in 2021. Currently, we only have one Neighbourhood Development Plan affected by this; Stedham with Iping (Chichester District). The Regulations state that NDPs that have undergone examination but are awaiting referendum can be given significant weight in the determination of planning applications.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
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Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	No
Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Due regard has been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equalities Act 2010. The qualifying body with responsibility for preparing the neighbourhood plan must prepare a Consultation Statement demonstrating how they have consulted the local community and statutory consultees. The examiner who assesses the plan will consider whether the Consultation Statement meets regulatory requirements.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	The qualifying body with responsibility for preparing the neighbourhood plan must demonstrate how its plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This is set out in the Basic Conditions Statement. The examiner who assessed the plan considered that it met the requirements. Please note that the sustainability objectives used by qualifying bodies may not be the same as used by the SDNPA, but they will follow similar themes.

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

7.1 None proposed.

TIM SLANEY

Director of Planning

South Downs National Park Authority

Contact Officer: Hannah Collier (Senior Planning Policy Officer)

Tel: 01730 819345

email: hannah.collier@southdowns.gov.uk

Appendices I. Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

SDNPA Consultees Legal Services; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Director of Planning

External Consultees None

Background Documents All plans referred to and responses made by the SDNPA are available at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/>

SDNPA Led NDPs	Update	Housing Numbers Compared with the SDLP	Links to relevant documents (where applicable)
Findon	<p>The Examiners Report for the Update to the Findon NDP was issued to the SDNPA in November 2019. The Examiners Report set out a number of modifications in order for the uFNDP to meet the Basic Conditions. The Examiner recommended that the housing gap policy was contrary to the Basic Conditions. He noted that there was not enough evidence to demonstrate the de-allocation of South Downs Local Plan housing allocations, as they had been through a rigorous analysis by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Officers took the Decision Statement for the uFNDP to January Planning Committee. This sets out the changes that will be made to the plan in response to the changes recommended by the Examiner. Due to the nature of the modifications, it was decided that the modifications would only constitute as minor (in line with the definition in the NPPG).</p> <p>Therefore there was not a need for a Referendum for the uFNDP to form part of the Development Plan for the SDNPA.</p>	<p>NDP: 33-38 SDLP: 30</p>	<p>Findon submission NDP</p> <p>SDNPA response to the submission FNDP Update</p> <p>SDNPA Decision Statement</p>
Fittleworth	<p>Fittleworth Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement was taken to September 2019 Planning Committee, this set out all the modifications recommended by the Independent Examiner John Slater. The Fittleworth NDP was modified accordingly and went to Referendum on 7 November 2019. There was a 25% turnout, with 84% of people who voted voting in favour of the FNDP. The Fittleworth NDP was made under Delegated Authority on 20 December 2019 as there was no scheduled Planning Committee in December 2019. It is written in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations paragraph 064 that; “the neighbourhood plan must be made by the local planning authority within 8 weeks of the referendum.”</p> <p>The Fittleworth NDP now forms part of the SDNPA Development Plan.</p>	<p>NDP: 6 SDLP: 6</p>	<p>Fittleworth Made NDP</p> <p>SDNPA Decision Statement</p> <p>SDNPA response to submission FNDP</p>

<p>Stedham with Iping</p>	<p>The Regulation 16/Submission Consultation for Stedham with Iping was run between 30 Nov 2018 to 1 February 2019. Concerns were raised by Officers over the Settlement Boundary, as it didn't include the South Downs Local Plan allocation SD88 Stedham Sawmills. The NDP also added additional detail to the Stedham Sawmills SDLP allocation. An independent Examination was carried out by the Appointed Examiner Nigel McGurk. Mr McGurk issued his final report to the SDNPA in October 2019.</p> <p>Officers took the Decision Statement for the SINDP to January 2020 Planning Committee. This sets out the changes that will be made to the plan in response to the changes recommended by the Examiner so the SINDP can proceed to referendum.</p> <p>The SINDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Chichester District Council Electoral Services team, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.</p>	<p>NDP: N/a (16 allocated in submission, but policy deleted)</p> <p>SDLP: 16 (Stedham Sawmill SD88)</p>	<p>Stedham with Iping submission NDP</p> <p>SDNPA response to the submission SINDP</p> <p>Examiners Report to SINDP</p> <p>SDNPA Decision Statement</p>
<p>Twyford</p>	<p>Twyford Neighbourhood Area was designated by the SDNPA in January 2015, following a 6 week consultation from 21 November 2014 to 9 January 2015. The Parish Council had carried out local public exhibitions in 2015, and carried out consultation on housing site options followed by evidence base work. The TNDP has had some delay due to the need for Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment. The Regulation 14 (Pre-submission) Consultation was run by the Parish Council from 6 January – 24 February 2020. Officers took the SDNPA response to the TNDP to January 2020 Planning Committee.</p>	<p>NDP: 20 (Pre-submission)</p> <p>SDLP: 20</p>	<p>Twyford pre-submission NDP</p> <p>SDNPA response to pre-submission NDP</p>

Other Local Authority-Led NDPs	Update	Housing Numbers Compared with Existing LP and Submission SDLP	Links to relevant documents (where applicable)
Arundel (Update)	Following a successful examination, the update to the Arundel Neighbourhood Plan (uADNP) proceeded to community Referendum on 19 November 2019. 80.2% of those who voted, voted in favour of the ADNP. The updated Arundel NDP is part of the Development Plan of the SDNPA for the part of the Arundel Parish within the South Downs National Park.	NDP: 126 (outside the SDLP) SDLP: n/a Arun Local Plan:	Made Arundel NDP Decision Statement
Hassocks	Mr Andrew Ashcroft was appointed as the Independent Examiner for the Hassocks NDP. The Examiner's report was issued to Mid Sussex District Council and the SDNPA on 16 December 2019. The HNNDP was then modified accordingly in line with the Examiner's modifications. A community Referendum was held on 5 March 2020, with a turnout of 26.43%. Of those who voted, 94.8% voted in favour of the plan. The HNNDP will shortly be made by the SDNPA and MSDC.	NDP: 0 SDLP: n/a Mid Sussex District Plan: 882 (outside of the SDNP)	Hassocks Examiner's report SDNP response to submission Hassocks NDP
Henfield	The Regulation 16 consultation for the Henfield NDP took place between 8 November – 19 December 2019. Officer comments were in general regard to the status of South Downs Local Plan and the National Park. Mr Andrew	NDP: SDLP:	Henfield Submission NDP

	Ashcroft was appointed as Independent Examiner and will issue his final report to HDC and SDNPA shortly.	Horsham District Planning Framework: Share of 1500 homes (outside of SDNP)	SDNP response to submission Henfield NDP
Seaford	Mr Nigel McGurk was appointed as the Independent Examiner of the Seaford NDP. The Examiner published his report in December 2019. In December 2019 Lewes District Council published the Decision Statement for the Seaford NDP. This sets out the changes that will be made to the plan in response to the changes recommended by the Examiner. The SNDP was modified accordingly and successfully passed referendum Thursday 6 February 2020. 89% of those who voted, voted in favour of the SNDP. The Seaford NDP was made by the SDNPA Planning Committee on 12 March 2020 and Lewes District Council Full Council on 24 February 2020.	NDP: 218 (none within SDNP) SDLP: N/a Lewes JCS: At-least 185 for Seaford	Made Seaford NDP

Made Neighbourhood Development Plans

Made Plans	Date Made by SDNPA	Date of SDNPA Area Designation	Referendum Turnout	Cost *
Albourne	13 October 2016	13 September 2012	43.4%	N/A
Aldingbourne	8 December 2016	7 November 2013	24%	N/A
Amberley	15 June 2017	5 March 2015	57.7%	£12,125
Angmering	14 March 2015	14 March 2013	31.3%	N/A
Arundel (Updated)	12 June 2014	14 March 2013	26.6%	N/A
Bury	12 April 2018	12 December 2015	38%	£11,885.75
Clapham	12 May 2016	13 November 2014	52.7%	£3,664.98
Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat	10 May 2018	13 June 2013 and extension 16 January 2014	34.0%	£6789.50 ¹
East Meon	14 December 2017	14 August 2014	37%	£13,868.15
Fernhurst	14 April 2016	13 September 2012	18.2%	£33,703.94
Ferring	12 March 2015	14 March 2013	45.2%	N/A
Findon (now being revised 2018)	8 December 2016	12 October 2012	25.5%	£35,518.40
Fittleworth	20 December 2019	5 March 2015	25%	£2581.09
Hamsey	14 July 2016	13 September 2012	28.0%	N/A

Made Plans	Date Made by SDNPA	Date of SDNPA Area Designation	Referendum Turnout	Cost *
Hassocks	TBC	13 September 2012	26.43%	N/A
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common	14 March 2015	13 September 2012	42.0%	N/A
Kirdford	12 June 2014	13 September 2012	44.0%	N/A
Lavant	10 August 2017	18 March 2013	24%	£21,145.64
Lewes	11 April 2019	8 May 2014	24.8%	£31,474.66 ¹
Liss	14 December 2017	14 August 2017	30%	£26,069.84
Milland	9 June 2016	13 June 2013	33.8%	£1,986.50
Newhaven	14 November 2019	8 July 2013	14.74%	N/A
Patching	12 April 2016	14 March 2013	21%	£7368.90
Petworth	12 th July 2018	16 Jan 2014	36.32%	£27,113.80
Petersfield	21 January 2016	13 September 2012	26.0%	£45,209.01
Plumpton	12 April 2018	28 April 2014	47.0%	N/A
Ringmer	21 January 2016	13 September 2012	42.0%	N/A
Seaford	12 March 2020	18 January 2016	31.8%	N/A
Storrington, Sullington & Washington	12 September 2019	10 December 2013	19.13%	N/A

¹ The cost of the referendum is not yet included in this figure

Made Plans	Date Made by SDNPA	Date of SDNPA Area Designation	Referendum Turnout	Cost *
Walberton	9 March 2017	14 March 2013	48%	N/A
Wisborough Green	9 June 2016	13 September 2012	36.6%	N/A
Woodmancote	15 June 2017	17 February 2014	46%	N/A