



**South Downs**

National Park Authority

**Agenda Item 12**

**Report NPA19/20-37**

Report to	<b>South Downs National Park Authority</b>
Date	<b>21 May 2020</b>
By	<b>Director of Countryside Policy &amp; Management</b>
Title of Report	<b>Moving Out of Lockdown</b>
Decision	

**Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to**

- 1. Note the measures currently in place within the SDNPA to ensure business continuity in lockdown and as we come out.**
- 2. Agree to vary the 2020/21 budget in order to establish a Recovery Fund as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6 below, incorporating the outcome of the annual audit of the Authority's accounts.**
- 3. Note the range of activities in place or under development to support businesses, partners and communities and thereby minimise the risks to delivery of the PMP outcomes and priorities during the pandemic period.**
- 4. Note that it will be necessary to continue with NPA and Planning Committee meetings by virtual means and note that a virtual meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee will take place in July.**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report and Appendix I provide an update as at 13 May on how the SDNPA is dealing with the current situation and our plans to move out of lockdown in a phased approach in step with the latest government guidance. It also summarises some of the activity the SDNPA is currently undertaking to support partners, and points to some issues we need to consider looking further ahead as our communities and economy find a new equilibrium.

**2. Policy Context.**

- 2.1** This paper is being written in the week the Prime Minister made his announcements about moving out of lockdown under the overall banner "Stay Alert". More detailed guidance is expected from the Government in the period between circulating this NPA paper and the meeting itself and this may change the approach the SDNPA takes. A White Paper on a Coronavirus Recovery Plan has just been published, and the Cabinet Office is finalising guidance on social distancing. Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is publishing advice on safe working broken down by activity (outdoor spaces are covered under 'Construction and other outdoor activity') and MHCLG is leading on advice regarding access to greenspace. A verbal update on the latest policy situation will therefore be given under the CEO report.

### 3. Issues for consideration

#### Financial implications and the Recovery Fund

- 3.1 We are continuing to assess the impacts of Covid-19 on our revenue budget and are proposing an important revision to support our immediate response. We plan to bring forward any further revisions that become necessary in the summer, once we have more certainty over the emergence from lockdown, but we remain confident that we will be able to manage this within our current resources.
- 3.2 In order that SDNPA can support the recovery in pursuit of the Partnership Management Plan objectives, it is proposed that a Recovery Fund of £375,000 be set up within the revenue budget. Funds will be disbursed through the existing Theme Programme Board mechanisms with £70,000 being added to the budget of each TPB, and a further £25,000 will also be added to the Communications Budget to support coronavirus related activity. The broad criteria for disbursement of those funds will be as follows;
1. They will help the relevant partner contribute to the Priority Programmes in the SDNP Partnership Management Plan 2020-25
  2. Priority to partner organisations with under 49 employees
  3. Priority to partner organisations not receiving other emergency funding
  4. Projects should not leave continuing revenue commitments
  5. A clear exit strategy should be specified
  6. Project can be concluded by December 2020
- 3.3 This will alter the existing Theme Programme Board budgets as follows:

Theme Programme Board	Existing 2020/21 Budget	Proposed Budget including recovery fund allocation
Landscape and Biodiversity	170,000	240,000
Cultural Heritage	90,000	160,000
Sustainable Access	95,000	165,000
Connecting People and Communities	58,000	128,000
Economy and Tourism	90,000	160,000

- 3.4 It is proposed that the additional budget is funded partly from the existing PMP reserve and partly from additional reserves arising from the provisional underspend in the 2019/20 revenue budget.
- 3.5 The provisional outturn shows an expenditure of £310,000 under budget. As part of the 2020/21 budget, NPA decided to establish a Climate Change Action Fund, using £141,000 of this money. This leaves £169,000, which would be supplemented with £206,000 from the PMP reserve, reducing it from £512,000 to £306,000. It should be stressed that the outturn figure of £310,000 is as yet a provisional figure and this is subject to adjustment either pre-audit or during the external audit process. Therefore the contribution from this to the Recovery Fund of £169,000 and the balance required from PMP reserve would be subject to change.
- 3.6 Funds allocated and projects approved by Theme Programme Boards using Recovery Funds will be identified separately and will be reported on separately to the Policy & Resources Committee on a quarterly basis. The fund will only exist for the financial year 2020/21, with any funds unallocated to projects returned to reserves at the end of the year.

### Key functions

3.7 Many of the business functions of the SDNPA are desk based and can be conducted virtually for the duration of the restrictions without a serious impact on the business. However, others rely on being able to travel and conduct site meetings or visits. In anticipation of changing Government guidance a prioritised list of the latter has been developed by SMT and this is being used to assess which are the most business critical for staff as they are released from lockdown.

### 3.8 **Governance priority functions**

- Continue/ restart NPA, Planning Committee and Policy & Resource Committee meetings by virtual means.
- Continue informal member to member engagement via micro-forums such as the recent climate change discussion.

### 3.9 **Planning priority functions:**

- Resume site visits to investigate enforcement breaches;
- Resume site visits to assess planning applications/pre-applications. (Internal Listed Building site visits will have to be a later priority given that internal site visit of properties will be required. Meetings with applicants/agents to continue to be by Video conferencing until further notice)
- Posting Site Notices (currently being undertaken by applicant/agent)
- Resumption of a similar Development Management Service by host authorities, with Link Officers being able to resume visits to Host Authority offices if appropriate.
- Resumption of Planning Committee site visits (although may have to rely on individual transport and naturally this will have logistical and financial challenges).
- Attendance at Planning Appeal Hearings/Inquiries (in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate);
- Progression of Neighbourhood Plans/Village Statements (hampered by practicalities of public consultation events given current and anticipated restrictions on large gatherings).

### 3.10 **Countryside Policy & Management priority functions:**

- Site visits relevant to access land restrictions (statutory function);
- Assisting planning site visits (see above);
- Ensuring South Downs Way and (with LHAs) other priority Rights of Way are accessible
- Delivery of major projects (such as Centurion Way, Heathlands Reunited etc.);
- Resumption of schools programme;
- Resumption of winter task programme for Volunteer Ranger Service. *(The VRS includes a large proportion of people who are in higher risk categories so all activity has been halted. The key decision point is in August to decide whether we can go ahead with a winter programme).*

### Conditions for re-opening our offices

3.11 Any plan for returning to physical work places will take into account the circumstances of individuals in relation to vulnerabilities within households and other issues arising from the current crisis. HR will continue to monitor this situation and provision to work from home for anyone particularly affected by those issues will remain, potentially for some time to come.

3.12 In considering when and how we might re-open our offices we will be guided by BEIS as it issues its detailed advice for COVID safety in business sectors, and also look at best practice from early adopters of new ways of working such as retail. A lot of detailed preparatory work has already been done, and we have already assessed the capacity of all our offices

with social distancing in mind. Our initial assessment is that there will be insufficient space in our meeting rooms to enable a return to business as usual for face-to-face meetings whilst social distancing measures are required to be met, therefore meetings of the Authority and its committees will take place via virtual means for the foreseeable future. It is intended that, from July 2020, the usual committee schedule will be resumed, albeit with truncated agendas, wherever possible.

- 3.13 We are looking in more detail at a whole range of options including staggered start and finish times, alternate days in the office, social distancing protocols and office/vehicle cleaning and hygiene protocols. Risk assessments are being undertaken for new procedures, and guidelines are being revised as appropriate in close liaison with our Health & Safety Advisor and sharing experience with other NPAs. We are advised that for most of our functions PPE will not be necessary if we get these other measures right and have identified sources of supply for what we do need.

#### Our role in supporting partners

- 3.14 Despite the imperative to work from home, the SDNPA is being extremely active in reaching out and supporting our businesses, partners and communities. We have used or are considering all of these mechanisms in combination, and Appendix I sets out in more detail the range of activities currently underway or being considered.
- 3.15 **Information sharing.** Simply acting as an information hub and bringing together sources of help and advice has been very valuable to others. Examples include the Connecting Communities interactive map and the work we have done with the tourism and cultural heritage sector.
- 3.16 **Funding.** We are already making resources available through the Theme Programme Board budgets to support other organisations which are mission critical in terms of the Partnership Management Plan. The proposed Recovery Fund would increase our capacity to do this.
- 3.17 **Planning.** The planning system has a very significant effect on rural businesses. Without compromising Local Plan policies, we could explore whether there are ways of making the process easier and providing other short term incentives, such as exemptions from pre-app payments or delaying s.106 payments for certain categories of development
- 3.18 **Advocacy.** We are using our influence, individually and jointly with NPE, NP-UK, SEEPL and other bodies championing the environment and rural economy, to make sure that they are seen as an important element of any national recovery plan.
- 3.19 **Communications & Engagement.** We are using our new website and our enhanced social media presence to promote clear messages to the general public and our stakeholders (see below), and to bring the National Park, its wildlife and heritage, to people who have been unable to access it during lockdown.

#### Messaging about Access to the Countryside

- 3.20 The situation in the South Downs is markedly different from many other National Parks, firstly because we do not run car parks, visitor centres or Rights of Way, and secondly because the large number of residents mean that even “stay local” meant that many were using the NP regularly for daily exercise. But we are using all our channels to reinforce national messaging about responsible behaviour – our latest statement is:

*“We understand this remains a very testing time for people and many will want to access the National Park for all its health and wellbeing benefits. Our absolute priority remains the safety of our visitors as well as the 117,000 people living and working within the National Park. For now, we ask you to please continue to exercise as close as possible to home. If you are visiting the National Park, please follow the Government guidelines to keep yourself safe by continuing strict social distancing and avoiding hotspots or popular locations. Please also remember that our farmers are working hard to maintain food supplies. Support them, our communities and our wildlife by sticking to the path, keeping dogs on the lead around livestock, taking your litter home and avoid disturbing ground nesting birds and other wildlife”.*

#### 4. Next steps

- 4.1 The current situation is having a profound effect on South Downs communities, local businesses, farmers and landowners, and its vulnerable or isolated individuals, and these impacts are likely to continue for some time. We will need to decide how the SDNPA can best respond, taking as a starting point that any interventions should align with the long term outcomes in our Partnership Management Plan. Getting to a new normal after coronavirus will be a long slow and complex process. The roles that the SDNPA can play will vary over time and certain ideas may not come into play until 2021 or 2022. It may be helpful to think of three very broad phases:
- 4.2 **Current emergency**, with the overwhelming public effort focused on the immediate public health crisis, coming out of lockdown, avoiding a second wave, the infection rate, testing and other crucial issues. The role the SDNPA can play is limited but we are making a difference.
- 4.3 **Adjustment**. As lockdown is eased first partially and then completely, many of our communities, businesses and partners will emerge battered or in some cases may not recover viability. This could have a serious impact on the delivery of the PMP outcomes and priorities. During this phase carefully targeted interventions from the SDNPA, working alongside other public bodies, may help to rebuild confidence, markets and capacity.
- 4.4 **Influencing the new normal**. There are opportunities for the South Downs economy to become more sustainable and resilient post-pandemic, with longer term interventions to incentivise nature recovery, net zero carbon and local supply chains. There are also, however, risks of a shift to more car dependency at the expense of public transport and that the range of people able to benefit from using the National Park is narrowed not broadened.

#### 5. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Further decisions may be required at subsequent NPA meetings depending on how the exit from lockdown proceeds, the pandemic evolves and government guidance evolves
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The currently predicted financial implications for the Authority of lockdown and of establishing the proposed Recovery Fund are set out in the paper
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	N/A
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	At this stage it is hard to predict what the implications of lockdown and recovery may have on Purpose 2 and the ability of a broader cross-section of people to access and benefit from the National Park.
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	It is likely that the current situation is having a disproportionate impact on lower income groups and those with protected characteristics as it is harder for them to use the National Park as they are less likely to be residents or have access to a car.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising	None

from the proposal?	
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	There will be a number of Health & Safety considerations as we start to restore key functions of the Authority and release from lockdown. Safeguarding staff and volunteers will be our top priority.
Are there any Data Protection implications?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	See final paragraph. The way that the South Downs economy and communities recover from coronavirus could lock in more sustainable behaviours or have the reverse effect.

## 6. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Financial viability/flexibility to allocate resources.	Low	SDNPA viability impacted by use of some reserves to support recovery initiatives.  Ability to support future PMP activities compromised.	We would retain level of general reserves as required by CIPFA.  The allocation to TPBs is fully reversible if monies are not allocated.  Any support we do give would be in line with longer terms PMP outcomes
Rapidly changing policy environment	Medium	SDNPA “locking in” responses which become inappropriate.	Continual intelligence gathering through NPE and via own channels to Defra, MHCLG etc. Close partnership working on recovery locally with LEPs, Country Councils etc.

### **ANDREW LEE** Director of Countryside Policy and Management South Downs National Park Authority

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 Appendices I. Coronavirus Action Table  
 SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager [if procurement involved]  
 External Consultees None

## SDNPA Coronavirus Action Table

This summarises current and planned activity and is updated regularly:

	<b>Project Name</b> Lead officers, CPM Manager and TPB	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Summary Description</b>
1	<b>Connecting our Communities Interactive Map</b>  Kat Beer and Mark Alden  Nick Heasman  Economy TPB	Live	<p>This project went live on Friday of last week and will now be lightly maintained each week. It maps out local businesses who can supply essentials, and community hubs and other local resources, and will be regularly updated. We have resource agreement from Support and GIS who will be carrying this out.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> Live since Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April with a weekly maintenance process in place being carried out by Nikki Allen and Kate from GIS.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> April.</b> We now have over 200 business and 73 community groups on the map.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b> We now have 303 businesses represented on the map and 107 community groups.</p> <p><a href="https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/covid-19-supporting-communities/find-local-deliveries-suppliers-support-groups/">https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/covid-19-supporting-communities/find-local-deliveries-suppliers-support-groups/</a></p> <p>If you have any suggestions for information to include please email <a href="mailto:enterprise@southdowns.gov.uk">enterprise@southdowns.gov.uk</a></p>
2	<b>Business to Business Statement (lists resources and advice)</b>  Kat Beer and Mark Alden  Nick Heasman  Economy TPB	Live	<p>The B2B statement is complete and has been signed off. It is now live on the website <a href="#">here</a>. It will be maintained weekly by the Thrive Team. It is planned to expand it to include resources for other types of partners and stakeholders, for example by linking with the SCF and the advisory work of the SD Trust. <a href="https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/covid-19-supporting-communities/information-for-businesses-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/">https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/covid-19-supporting-communities/information-for-businesses-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/</a></p> <p>A newsletter is being developed to engage with the appropriate business of the SDNP in due course to lay the foundations for the 'SDNP Enterprise Network'</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> Live since Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b> The B2B statement has been updated by Luke to include important workforce testing guidance and information on DEFRA's Pick for Britain Campaign.</p>
3	<b>Supporting Community Groups</b>  Kate Drake, Amanda Elmes and Chris Paterson  Anne Rehill	Ongoing	<p>This project has now been handed over to Anne Rehill, Kate Drake and Chris Paterson to develop after the Thrive Team developed the concept. The project aim being to; research the community barriers to support, auditing our available (SDNPA) assets, developing our offer to add value and facilitate community groups success. This project will then be followed by a delivery/ implementation project.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> This project has been handed over to Chris Paterson, Amanda Elms and Kate Drake. We have continued to signpost to resources such as WSCC CLIO Database and connect individuals from partner organisations.</p>

	<p>Connecting Communities TPB</p>		<p>This project is utilising the Connecting our Communities interactive map which is fantastic. The only slight concern is our agreed resource of NA for 8 days a week to maintaining the map might be over stretched by helping with the added content from this project. This is not a problem but we may need to ask for more resource to be agreed.  <b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                      The concern of resourcing this project has been alleviated. Zara and Kim have kindly agreed to ongoing resources for this project.</p> <p>Contact has been made with community hubs to offer support. Web page up and running <a href="https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/covid-19-supporting-communities/coordinating-hubs-other-support/">https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/covid-19-supporting-communities/coordinating-hubs-other-support/</a></p> <p>Dedicated email address for requests set up  <a href="mailto:Communitysupport@southdowns.gov.uk">Communitysupport@southdowns.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Guidance for staff on how to volunteer using our equipment has been produced along with a risk assessment and will be available on the intranet.</p>
4	<p><b>Working with the West Sussex Economy Group</b></p> <p>Mark Alden                      Nick Heasman                      Economy TPB</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Mark Alden attends twice weekly v meetings with the West Sussex Economy Group, which is a newly formed group who have agreed to work together to coordinate response to the C19 crisis and share information. The group was created by Carolyn Carr of WSCC.  <b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>                      Ongoing  <b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                      Ongoing</p>
5	<p><b>Natural Partnerships CIC: Food and Drink Communications Project</b></p> <p>Kat Beer                      Nick Heasman                      Economy TPB</p>	<p>Inception meeting 8/4/20                      Ongoing</p>	<p>Natural Partnerships CIC have been appointed to carry out a series of emergency communications in response to the C19 Crisis. A draft MOU has been drawn up with an inception meeting scheduled for Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April. Project to last from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June.  <b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>                      An MOU has been finalised and signed by both parties. A PO has been raised by Hayley Leaver. Works have commenced and Kat has written the 1<sup>st</sup> B2B newsletter.  <b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                      The 1<sup>st</sup> Foodie newsletter has been written and released. We are now looking to do May's B2B newsletter.</p>
6	<p><b>Visitor Economy Response</b></p> <p>Kat Beer and Anooshka Rawden                      Nick Heasman and Andy Beattie                      Economy TPB</p>	<p>Ongoing regional communications group                      Ongoing</p>	<p>Kat Beer is working with the 'South East Tourism Destination Group' to circulate and share information with the tourism sector to ensure a clear and consistent approach is adopted with businesses.  <b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>                      Ongoing  <b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                      Ongoing                      Kat is also part of the Visit England SE Task Force who will feed back information to Government on behalf of the NP.  <b>UP-DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>                      Ongoing  <b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                      Ongoing</p>



<p>7</p>	<p><b>Supporting the Heritage sector</b></p> <p>Anooshka Rawden</p> <p>Andy Beattie</p> <p>Heritage TPB</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Initial response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassure heritage partners (in terms of ring-fencing project funding for use post Covid-19, honouring commitments made to freelancers, and individual check ins with ‘pastoral’ support for organisations at risk) – statement issued which was also utilised by other Strategy Leads.</li> <li>• Connect with regional groups (including Culture East Sussex and South East Museum Development) to exchange information on the situation on the ground as it develops – ongoing.</li> <li>• Ensure regular email contact with cultural and creative partners across the Park (providing updates on external funding, advice to support planning and response, and sharing opportunities for national or regional digital promotion (i.e. initiatives by the BBC, Guardian and Telegraph) – ongoing (currently on a weekly basis).</li> <li>• Collate creative and cultural digital resources for SDNPA Communications team – ongoing.</li> <li>• Garner Support from colleagues within SDNPA to provide expertise to creative and cultural organisations around key emerging priority areas – grateful for support from Daniel Greenwood and James Winkworth in offering time and expertise to support heritage organisations.</li> </ul> <p>Update for April / May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership grants programme set up with South East Museum Development to provide small grants to support collections at risk activities (linked to insurance, conservation, site security etc.) as a result of direct impacts from Covid-19.</li> <li>• Piece written for the Historic England online debate around Covid-19 impacts, highlighting challenges, opportunities and needs for the sector.</li> <li>• Submitted response to DCMS call for feedback and evidence on Covid-19 impacts to the DCMS relevant sectors.</li> <li>• Liaised with Hampshire cultural heritage organisations and Museum Development to scope potential for a Hampshire cultural heritage network to support information exchange and partnership approaches to Covid-19 response. First meeting of a new East Hants Museum Network will take place on 13 May, and be the first step in coordinating and networking creative, cultural and tourism organisations in the region.</li> <li>• Working with partners on project adaptation in light of Covid-19 impacts – partnership projects such as Environmental Summer at Ditchling and LYT Productions at Tide Mills.</li> <li>• Coordinated with Communications to set up ‘take overs’ of the Park’s Instagram accounts by heritage organisations.</li> <li>• 121 support for organisations as and when needed – examples include telephone discussion with Gilbert Whites re. reopening plans and revision of 5 year plan; Discussion with consultant on review of vision, mission and audience for Amberley Museum; Discussion with Sussex Archaeological Society on possible reopening strategies, development of online platforms and profile / advocacy.</li> </ul> <p>Looking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping needs for creative and cultural organisations to support plans to reopen – i.e. adaptation requirements, and associated funding support likely to do so.</li> <li>• Revisit draft Cultural Heritage Strategy – put on hold due to Covid-19 and a need to scope and horizon scan impacts. Review</li> </ul>
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			<p>approach and include statement on Covid-19 recovery and role of the Park in supporting that where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider longer term role for a creative and cultural network for the Park – opportunities to bring organisations together to encourage sharing, partnership and exchange beyond county boundaries.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Managing Access Issues</b></p> <p>Nigel James</p> <p>Andy Gattiker, Allison Thorpe and internal access team</p> <p>Access TPB / Area teams</p>	Ongoing	<p><b>National</b> - Through NPE we have ongoing communications with Defra and Natural England on the national position and policy approach both during and for exiting out of lockdown. This guides our approach at the local level. A National Parks’ group of officers who are the respective leads for ‘reopening’ their National Park is being established. SDNPA rep is N. James.</p> <p><b>Local</b> - We are in regular communication with the four Local Highway Authorities and others about issues to do with managing access and impacts on landowners and communities in the National Park. Consideration is now being given to the role of the SDNPA for managing access across the National Park when the process of exiting out of lockdown commences.</p>
9	<p><b>Bringing the National Park to people via social media</b></p> <p>Communications Team</p> <p>Ruth James</p> <p><i>(please email any new suggestions or offers of help to <a href="mailto:comms@southdowns.gov.uk">comms@southdowns.gov.uk</a>)</i></p>	Ongoing	<p>A range of activities refocusing how we communicate - putting out inspiring, hopeful content. This has been extremely well received and we have seen strong growth across all of our social channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now more than 15,000 followers on Twitter – a significant achievement as we had an increase of 451 people during April.</li> <li>Over 10,000 views for Take the Lead sessions on Facebook, with 895 engagements.</li> <li>A series of Facebook Live sessions with rangers, including almost 2,000 views for how to create a wildlife-friendly bog garden, 1,600 views on on how to make a swift box in your garden, and over 2,000 views for a nature Q&amp;A.</li> <li>10th anniversary online quiz attracted over 800 participants, with over 500 subscribing to receive our monthly newsletter.</li> <li>The PMP launch has gone well.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 media hits with a reach of 120,000 people</li> <li>On Facebook it reached nearly 5,000 people and 447 engagements.</li> <li>First <i>Your National Park</i> champions’ video had over 15,000 views</li> <li>The PMP page itself has had about 500 views</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Still meeting weekly with the NPUK Comms steering group and feeding messaging into the Defra Covid Communications group.</p>
10	<p><b>Job Seekers/ Staff Searchers Project</b></p> <p>To be developed by Thrive team, HR team and others as appropriate.</p>	Concept phase	<p>Following reports from the recent CLA report <a href="https://www.cla.org.uk/help-feed-nation">https://www.cla.org.uk/help-feed-nation</a> ‘Feed the Nation’, the Thrive Team are working up a project to connect those in our communities desperately seeking work (students, zero hour contracts etc.) with those businesses desperately seeking staff (growers, farmers, vineyards etc.).</p> <p><b>UP-DATE:- 14<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p>Following an up-date from NFU Tom Ormesher the agricultural jobs solution has been identified as the centrally administered portal (run by AHDB). NFU have recommended all enquired be directed to this portal when it goes live later this week. There still may be some positive intervention required here particularly in the training of new staff and the health and safety element of this. Whilst we wait for the portal to go live NFU have recommended for all enquiries to be forwarded to the ALP website. Mark has forwarded on Tom’s comprehensive up-date to Bruce Fowkes who has shared this information with the Farm Clusters. In addition to this upcoming portal from AHDB the Alliance of Ethical Labour Providers are working together to fill the labour shortage with</p>

			<p>9,500 applications for jobs already received. There are a large number of recruiters working on this:-  ALP  Angus Growers  CDS Labour  Total Jobs  HOPS (owned by The National Federation of Young Farmers Club)  NFU  <b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>  The DEFRA Pick for Britain Campaign has been launched and we have added this information to B2B statement and Enterprise Newsletter.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><b>Business Logistics Support Project (Saving the Growers Sector)</b>   Mark Alden and Kat Beer   Nick Heasman   Economy TPB</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>Following reports from John Hall (FRIGSE) and Sussex Innovation Centre, the Thrive Team are working up a project to facilitate the forced adaptation of businesses in response to their usual route to market being cut off. The non-edible horticulture sector is at a critical point in their season. With £100's of thousands of £'s tied up in bursting consolidation centres, these businesses are seeking assistance in additional consolidation centres to hold the stock build up, alternative routes to market, additional delivery channels and general logistics support. There is also a health &amp; wellbeing benefit to this project: Gardening is a top lockdown activity, however, with garden centres shut many are struggling to carry out these gardening activities in isolation. The Thrive Team are investigating whether facilitating in the opening up of alternative growers markets could release the pressure of isolating communities, from a health perspective, providing key resources to facilitate their gardening hobbies.  <b>UP-DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> April.</b>  Following conversations with Simon Mathews (RWSP) and Helena Jevons (SIC) a support project is emerging targeting small Growers. The project aims to support their pivot to a 'Direct to Consumer Model'. Meetings have been arranged for Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April to progress a pilot.  <b>UP-DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>  Pilot went live with SINC contacting the 12 businesses on the list provided by WSGA. Interestingly there were no takes up to take part in the trial and be provided 12 hours of free business support. The reasons given ranged from; 1.) Businesses are hoping to ride out the storm of the next 12 weeks and start back as normal when restrictions ease (this chain of thought has been accelerated by much of European Gov't choosing to re-open garden centres), 2.) Many of the businesses have furloughed staff and they are nervous to build up their orders through opening up a new market place and be forced to take staff out of the job retention scheme only to find it didn't work as well as they hoped, 3.) Some businesses are just waiting on the grants and furlough money to come in and cannot focus on support or the idea of pivoting their business and 4.) Businesses are reticent to pivot their established business operations, stepping into the unknown at such an uncertain time. EDO's are throwing adaptation of business models around with ease but the reality is, of a business to actual pivot requires great courage, acceptance of high risk and innovation. With no cash reserves to fall back on this is arguably not the time to be innovative in some business owner's minds.   Therefore: We have  1.) Added a database of 22 ornamental businesses to the list to contact and  2.) Have decided to open up the pilots and support to small independent garden centres themselves. Garden centres are famously experiential retailers who do not have an online shop front capability, with no visitors. With our help they could open</p>

			<p>up a market place and in doing so open up a supply chain to the micro growers. This will be trialled with 5 garden centres on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>No businesses have chosen to take up the offer of free support. This is likely due to the fact that most are waiting to see if restrictions are relaxed in the next Government announcement scheduled for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.</p>
12	<p><del>Recovery &amp; Resilience Grant Scheme</del> Now known as <b>C19 Recovery Strategy</b></p> <p>Amanda Elms, Anooshka Rawden, Alan Brough, Kat Beer and Mark Alden</p>	In development	<p>Develop a grant scheme targeting key sectors who have previously unsuccessfully applied for C19 financial support funding. Utilising the existing TPB Governance Structure.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>This project has now evolved into the Recovery Strategy which will be led by Kat Beer and Mark Alden with contributions from Anooshka and Amanda. Robin Parr and Alan Brough are adding information to the May NPA Paper asking for re-allocation of underspend to each TPB Budget. Each TPB is likely to receive £50K specifically to be used on Recovery. The research required for this project has been broken down into 2 elements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Primary data will be collected through interviews. The questions for this survey have been written in collaboration with Dartmoor and Exmoor NPA. Intel will provide key ground trothing information on what the local business impact from C19 restrictions is as well as providing the opportunity for SDNPA to engage with businesses to nurture our relationships. (An online survey using survey monkey will be conducted for the cultural heritage and education &amp; outreach sectors)</li> <li>2.) Carry out support mapping and gap analysis to identify what support is currently on offer to businesses. This will ensure we do not duplicate our support offer.</li> </ol> <p>The survey questions have been agreed and pilot interviews are taking place w/c 4<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>The sectors included are:</p> <p>Visitor Economy, Land based industry including key land owners and estates, Cultural heritage sector, education &amp; outreach, knowledge economy and advanced manufacturing.</p> <p>Interviews and online surveys are due to go live on w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Thank you to Chris Lickley, Grace Bowler, Sophie Brown and Gemma North who have all kindly volunteered to help us in the Thrive Team at this extremely difficult time for business.</p>
13	<p><b>Fortnightly Business Update</b></p> <p>Kat Beer and Mark Alden</p>	In development	<p>Develop a fortnightly business update newsletter providing SDNP Enterprise Partnership with current information on the C19 crisis.</p> <p><b>UP-DATE:6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>Enterprise newsletter template has been designed by Ministry of Design. This is waiting for Comms approval. Content has been written and the newsletter is ready to be approved once the template has been agreed.</p>

14	<p><b>Survive, Revive and Thrive: Webinar Series</b> Kat Beer</p> <p>Nick Heasman</p> <p>Economy TPB</p>	Live	<p>In partnership with WSCC, C2C LEP, Platform 9 and Sussex Chamber of Commerce: - deliver a series of Business Support Webinars.</p> <p>Part funded through our Sustainable Economy and Tourism TPB, over three webinars, to provide support to the tourism sector in response to Covid 19.</p> <p>The webinars bring together industry leaders and business experts to help the Sussex tourism industry to ‘Survive, Revive and Thrive’.</p> <p>We will be ensuring that Hampshire businesses in the SDNP will be included. Most of the local contributors will be Sussex based as it’s been funded mainly by C2C and EWS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Survive – expert panel on HR, legal, funding. To include live polls and questions to businesses on barriers and issues</u></li> <li>2. <u>Revive – Visitor Economy experts on recovery and planning for the future, collective working and tips for businesses 13 May 12.00-13.30.</u></li> <li>3. <u>Thrive – the future post lock down, opportunities, relationships and innovation.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>UP-DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> Webinar was delivered on 5<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>The main questions/issues raised were around practicalities for preparing for the next phase of lockdown, with furloughing staff – and taking them out of Furlough, and being able to plan ahead. Businesses shared ideas for income generation and communicating with customers. Some businesses are abandoning this year completely in terms of income, and are planning for 2021. The other main theme raised was around better collaboration between East and West Sussex, both for b2b and joint marketing and promotion. We had two MP’s on the call, Andrew Griffith MP for Arundel and South Downs, and Sally-Ann Hart MP for Hastings and Rye, they said they will raise some of the business related issues with central government.</p> <p>If you have time to re-watch the webinar you can find the recorded webinar <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
15	<p><b>Hampshire Rural Forum</b></p>	Invited to attend	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> May 2020:</b> Through our contacts at HCC (Andrea McCallum, Enterprise Manager) we have been invited to sit on one of the thematic groups feeding into the HCC Recovery Work.</p>
16	<p><b>National Park Recovery Strategy</b> – NP family research to understand impact of C 19 on businesses within NPs</p> <p>Mark Alden</p>	In dev	<p>We have been approached by Dartmoor National Park Authority about the possibility of feeding into their Recovery Strategy Business Survey questions and also exploring the possibility of all of us (NP Family) aligning our questions to businesses so we can share like for like data to enable cross tabulation and analysis.</p> <p>We are just about to commence our Recovery Strategy Research, with the help of some of our Ranger colleagues. Having more structure to our data gathering will ensure better quality of findings so we are working this up straight away to see how we can achieve this and work with our Protected Landscape Partners.</p>

17	<p><b>Supporting the Environment sector</b></p> <p>Claire Kerr</p> <p>Landscape &amp; Biodiversity TPB</p> <p>Rangers</p>	Ongoing	<p>Collating an overview of the situation facing environment sector partners.</p> <p>This will inform future actions/ support (tbc). Priorities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helping partners with their sites</li> <li>• regular site visits</li> <li>• ecological surveys</li> <li>• summer clearance works</li> </ul> <p>(Link to table for Tasks for Area Teams is <a href="#">here</a>)</p> <p>SDNPA continued role in facilitating strategic thinking and leadership by example.</p> <p>Supporting Changing Chalk Project Team (as most NT staff are furloughed)</p>
18	<p><b>Health and Well being</b></p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Concept</p>	<p>H&amp;WB Officer working with Comms team to highlight H&amp;W activities and approaches people can use during lock down</p> <p>We will be developing a range of different approaches to coming out of lock down based on digital engagement – as we do not think it appropriate to encourage group activity until it is clearer what the advice will be for social distancing</p> <p>1. Things to do now;</p> <p>a. Develop nuggets of information around 5 ways to HWB that can be done 1. At home 2. In your garden 3. On your daily walk/after lockdown whatever this might look like. Rolling this campaign out daily via social media for a number of weeks an activity a day.</p> <p>b. Promote links to exiting provision for engagement with artists and cultural heritage, bridging any gaps that exist by Commissioning new online content, and allowing individuals to share their own creations (a virtual SD gallery?).</p> <p>c. Develop and produce online virtual walks, highlighting the benefits of being out in nature – timed up to one hour and beyond depending on changes in government advice. (SDNPA staff and more likely Rangers)</p> <p>d. Pull together existing information we already have on how to use the NP responsibly, e.g. dog walking to produce up to date information about the NP.</p> <p>2. As we come out of lockdown:</p> <p>a. Reconnect with projects that we already intend to run or have run such as Artscape, Deep Time, and Truleigh Inspiring, to get them up and running appropriately once we know what restrictions will be in place, or explore opportunities for further work with them.</p> <p>b. Possibly creating some new experiences (like forest bathing which can be done in a socially distanced way) by working with landowners to see if they would provide access for H&amp;WB activities on their private land. Again we might consider funding this</p> <p>c. Working with Public Health and social prescribing partners to further develop collaborations with organisations like Mind to access the NP.</p>

19	<p><b>Learning &amp; Outreach</b></p> <p>Amanda Elmes &amp; Jonathan Dean</p>	Ongoing	<p>Our approach is being informed by joining up with the local Outdoors Advisors in the LEAs so there are joined up messages and options for schools.</p> <p>There is also the SDNPA learning network which will be used to evolve the way ahead.</p> <p>The NPUK Learning Group is active in mapping out all learning &amp; outreach ideas using their basecamp forum. There is also a video conference next week (w/c 4-May).</p>
20	<p><b>Volunteering</b></p> <p>Amanda Elmes &amp; Daniel Greenwood</p>	Ongoing	<p>All South Downs NPA volunteering is currently suspended. Area Teams (via Assistant Rangers) are keeping in touch with the VRS.</p> <p>There is a sense that as an organisation we need a give a clear steer on volunteering activity especially as many of the volunteers are in the over 70 bracket. This needs to be linked to government advice for this vulnerable group.</p> <p>An adequate lead-in period would be necessary in advance of “re-starting” volunteer tasks (time to plan the schedule and speak to partner organisation).</p> <p>The SD Volunteering Network is being used as a mechanism to “check-in” with other partners across the Park. Discussion around recovery planning in both the short-term and longer-term.</p>

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