

Agenda Item 9
Report PC20/21-23

Report to	Planning Committee
Date	12 November 2020
By	Director of Planning
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 Committee 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. We now have 31 made NDPs of which two have been reviewed and re-made now in place across the National Park and so the 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 The main highlights over the past six months are listed below. Firstly, there is an update on the two SDNPA led NDPs, Rogate and Twyford. Both settlements were given housing provision figures in the Local Plan and are the only such settlements not to have made NDPs. The following five NDPs are led by neighbouring authorities. When the South Downs is not the lead authority on an NDP, the Decision Statement is prepared by the lead authority. The South Downs will work with the lead authority through the examination process as needed. It is the role of the lead authority to produce the decision statement in consultation with the other authority.
 - Rogate Parish Council submitted the Rogate & Rake NDP to the SDNPA in early October 2020. The Parish Council had consulted on a pre-submission draft of the Plan in 2017, however, progress on was delayed due to the need for additional evidence base work on the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. This work has now been completed and the Regulation 16 consultation is underway, and will run

from 19 October to 14 December 2020. Our response to the Rogate NDP will be presented to Planning Committee in December 2020.

- The Twyford Neighbourhood Development Plan will be formally submitting their Plan to the Authority in the next one to two months. The next steps after submission will be to run a Regulation 16 consultation.
- The Bramber NDP passed Examination, with the independent examiner publishing his report on 27 July 2020. The Decision Statement was agreed by Horsham District Council on 25 August 2020. The plan is ready to proceed to referendum, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Horsham District Council Electoral Services team and in line with current Neighbourhood Planning regulations, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.
- The Boxgrove NDP passed Examination, and the decision statement was agreed by Chichester District Council in July 2020. The plan is ready to proceed to referendum, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Chichester District Council Electoral Services team and in line with current Neighbourhood Planning regulations, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.
- The Henfield NDP passed Examination, with the independent examiner publishing his report on 11 May 2020. The Decision Statement was agreed by Horsham District Council on 22 June 2020. The plan is ready to proceed to referendum, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Horsham District Council Electoral Services team and in line with current Neighbourhood Planning regulations, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.
- Delegated officer comments were made to the Regulation 16 Steyning NDP that ran for eight weeks between 17 July to 11 September 2020.

1.4 Omitted from previous update (May 2020):

- Upper Beeding NDP passed Examination, with the independent examiner publishing his report on 5 December 2019. The Decision Statement was agreed by Horsham District Council on 10 February 2020. The plan was ready to go to referendum on 19 March 2020, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this had to be cancelled and now has been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Horsham District Council Electoral Services team, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.

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 (4 Rogate and Rake)
Pre-submission (Reg 14) draft	6	2
Designated neighbourhood areas	56 (inc. Sheet, and Singleton which have abandoned)	22

1.5 Key areas of work carried out under delegated powers by the Authority since 1 May 2020 are set out in **Appendix I** of this report. Details of all the made NDPs are also provided in the appendix.

2. Planning Committee

- 2.1 In the last six months there have not been any reports on Neighbourhood Planning that were considered by Planning Committee. However, the Authority will be preparing a response to the Regulation 16 consultation for the Rogate Neighbourhood Plan. We anticipate this response going to the December Planning Committee for Members consideration.

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 I 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:
- Egerton – Continued support on policy drafting support and working towards Regulation 14 consultation (Ashford Borough Council).
 - Horsham District Council (HDC) – 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). Since May, Officers have continued to support HDC with supporting communities on the various stages of their Neighbourhood Plans. Over the past six months' officers have supported five plans to decision statement stage, two to examination and five to Regulation 16 consultation.
 - Further evidence base work is being carried out on three plans, including work on Habitats Regulation Assessment, site assessments and Sustainability Appraisal.

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.

Referendums

- 5.2 Recently the government updated the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations on Referendums; the update can be found on the Government Legislation website (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/395/regulation/13/made>) . 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 have five Neighbourhood Development Plan affected by this that are set out in table 2 below. The Regulations state that NDPs that have undergone examination, but are awaiting referendum can be given significant weight in the determination of planning applications.

Table 2: Neighbourhood Plans stalled at Referendum due to Covid-19

Neighbourhood Plan	Lead Authority	Decision Statement Completed	Proposed Referendum Date
Stedham with Iping	South Downs National Park Authority	16 Jan 2020	May 2021
Upper Beeding	Horsham District Council	30 Jan 2020	May 2021
Henfield	Horsham District Council	22 June 2020	May 2021
Boxgrove	Chichester District Council	7 July 2020	May 2021
Bramber	Horsham District Council	25 August 2020	May 2021

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
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.

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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/

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

SDNPA Led NDPs	Update	Housing Numbers Compared with the SDLP	Links to relevant documents (where applicable)
Rogate and Rake	Rogate Parish Council submitted the Rogate & Rake Neighbourhood Plan (RRNP) to the SDNPA in early October 2020. The Parish Council consulted on a pre-submission draft of the RRNP in 2017, however progress on the plan was delayed due to the need for additional evidence work (Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment) which has now been completed. The submission RRNP includes planning policies addressing various matters including: locally distinctive design, the village settlement boundary, supporting the rural economy, renewable energy and parking provision. The plan also includes two housing site allocations at the Renault Garage, Rogate and Land west of the Flying Bull Pub, Rake. A Regulation 16 consultation on the RRNP is underway and will run from the 19th October to 14th December 2020, after which an independent examination will take place.	NDP: 13 (Submission) SDLP: 11	Rogate and Rake Submission NDP Further documentation on the Regulation 16 consultation

Other Local Authority-Led NDPs	Update	Housing Numbers Compared with Existing LP and Submission SDLP	Links to relevant documents (where applicable)
Boxgrove	The Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan passed Examination, and the decision statement was agreed by Chichester District Council in July 2020. The plan is ready to proceed to referendum, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Chichester District Council Electoral Services team and in line with current Neighbourhood Planning regulations, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.	NDP: 0 SDLP: n/a Chichester Local Plan: 25 (Policy 5 Parish Housing Sites)	Decision Statement Examiners report
Bramber	The Bramber Neighbourhood Plan passed Examination, with the independent examiner publishing his report on 27 July 2020. The Decision Statement was agreed by Horsham District Council on 25 August 2020. The plan is ready to proceed to referendum, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Horsham District Council Electoral Services team and in line with current Neighbourhood Planning regulations, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.	NDP: 0 SDLP: n/a Horsham District Planning Framework: Share of 1500 homes (outside of SDNP)	Referendum version of the Bramber NDP Decision Statement Examiners Report SDNPA comments at Regulation 16 consultation
Henfield	The Henfield Neighbourhood Plan passed Examination, with the independent examiner publishing his report on 11 May 2020. The Decision Statement was agreed by Horsham District Council on 22 June 2020. The plan is ready to proceed to referendum, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this has now been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Horsham District Council Electoral Services team and in line with current Neighbourhood Planning regulations, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.	NDP: 0 SDLP: n/a Horsham District Planning Framework: Share of 1500 homes (outside of SDNP)	Decision statement Examiners report

Steyning	<p>The Steyning Neighbourhood Plan recently finished an eight-week Regulation 16 consultation. The consultation ran from 17 July to 11 September 2020. SDNPA officer's representation congratulated the parish council on a clear and well laid out NDP, and welcomed the focus on the natural environment, design and green space which are key to the Purposes of the National Park.</p> <p>the consultation focused on additional policy wording for clarity and detail. We anticipate the examination will start shortly.</p>	<p>NDP: 0</p> <p>SDNP: n/a</p> <p>Horsham District Planning Framework: Share of 1500 homes (outside of SDNP)</p>	<p>Submission Steyning Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>SDNPA comments at regulation 16 consultation</p>
Upper Beeding	<p>Upper Beeding Neighbourhood Plan passed Examination, with the independent examiner publishing his report on 5 December 2019. The Decision Statement was agreed by Horsham District Council on 10 February 2020. The plan was ready to go to referendum on 19 March 2020, but unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 this had to be cancelled and now has been delayed. It is currently anticipated, from liaison with Horsham District Council Electoral Services team, that the referendum will be held in May 2021.</p>	<p>NDP: 109 (none within SDNP)</p> <p>SDLP: Shoreham Cement works within Neighbourhood Area</p> <p>Horsham District Planning Framework: Share of 1500 homes (outside of SDNP)</p> <p>AECOM projection 213</p>	<p>Decision Statement</p> <p>Examiners report</p>

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
Hassocks	TBC	13 September 2012	26.43%	N/A
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common	14 March 2015	13 September 2012	42.0%	N/A

Made Plans	Date Made by SDNPA	Date of SDNPA Area Designation	Referendum Turnout	Cost *
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
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

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