

**Agenda Item 13**  
**Report PC 21/22-07**

Report to	<b>Planning Committee</b>
Date	<b>12 August 2021</b>
By	<b>Director of Planning</b>
Title of Report	<b>Half Year Update on the Progress of Neighbourhood Planning</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To update Members of the progress of Neighbourhood Development Plans across the South Downs National Park</b>

**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 to their preparation is a very important aspect of the South Downs National Park Authority's role. It underpins the Authorities commitment to delivering Outcome 9.2 of the Partnership Management Plan, to support community-led initiatives, which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park.
- I.2 There is an established process for a community to follow to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Once an NDP has 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). NDPs reflect the vision and aspirations of the local community and make a positive provision for development and growth, in line with the Local Plan's development strategy. Once made NDPs are used to determine planning applications within the parish
- I.3 There are 39 Made NDPs in the South Downs National Park. A number of other NDPs continue to work towards community referendums and ultimately adoption by the SDNPA and other appropriate Authorities.
- I.4 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 NDPs. The reports will also be used to inform the Authority Monitoring Report published at the end of the year.
- I.5 Some of the main highlights over the past seven months are:
  - Stedham with Iping, Boxgrove, Bramber, Henfield and Upper Beeding NDPs successfully passed referendum in May 2021 and were subsequently Made by the National Park Authority at its Planning Committee in June 2021
  - The Examination of the Twyford NDP commenced in April 2021. Officers have worked closely with the NDP group and Examiner to respond to a series of questions set out in the Examiner's clarification note. The Examiner's report is expected to be published in August 2021.

- The Examination of the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan concluded with the publication of the Examiner's report in March 2021. Chichester District Council agreed a decision statement in June 2021 and the Neighbourhood Plan went to community referendum on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The NDP will be made by Chichester District Council and SDNPA.
- Planning Committee agreed the SDNPA response to the Rogate and Rake NDP consultation on the 10 December 2020. The Examiner's report was published on 26 February 2021 and SDNPA Planning Committee agreed the SDNPA Decision Statement on 15 April 2021. A Community referendum was held on 01 July 2021, with the majority of those voting supporting the NDP, the Plan was made by SDNPA on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- Funtington Neighbourhood Area was designated by the SDNPA under officers delegated Authority on 25 March 2021
- Delegated officer comments were made to an informal draft of the Rowlands Castle NDP on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The response highlighted the importance of providing a robust evidence base to support policy proposals.
- Delegated officer comments were made to the Bramshott and Liphook NDP Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping report on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, highlighting the importance of conserving and enhancing the landscape of the Parish, including the part of the Parish within the National Park
- Delegated officer comments were made to the Regulation 16 version of the Pulborough NDP; the Plan is now at Examination
- Delegated officer comments were made to the Regulation 16 version of the Steyning NDP; the Plan is now at Examination
- Officers have prepared a Regulation 14 (Pre Submission) response to the Wisborough Green NDP review.
- The Aldingbourne NDP review has recently passed Examination. The review of the NDP did not propose any modifications, which would change the nature of the NDP. Therefore the Plan did not require a community referendum. The Plan was made by Arun District Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July and by SDNPA on 12<sup>th</sup> August
- SDNPA 'made' the updated Walberton NDP under officer delegated authority and the plan now forms part of the development plan for that part of the Parish in the 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 July 2021**

Stage	Total NDPs	SDNPA lead
Made	39	17
Submission (Reg16) and Examination	3	1
Pre-submission (Reg 14) draft	3	0
Designated neighbourhood areas	57 (inc. Sheet, and Singleton which have been abandoned)	23

- 1.6 Reports relating to NDPs presented to Planning Committee over the last six months are listed in the following section of this report. Key areas of work carried out under delegated powers by the Authority since 12 November 2020 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 seven months, SDNPA Planning Committee considered the following NDP reports:

- Making of Rogate and Rake, Westbourne and Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan (12<sup>th</sup> August 2021)
- Making of Stedham with Iping, Boxgrove, Bramber, Henfield and Upper Beeding Neighbourhood Development Plans (10<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- SDNPA agreed the Decision Statement for the Rogate & Rake NDP (15<sup>th</sup> April 2021)
- SDNPA response to the Submission version of the Twyford NDP (11<sup>th</sup> March 2021)
- SDNPA response to the Submission version of the Rogate and Rake NDP (10<sup>th</sup> December 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 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:
- Chichester District Council (CDC) – The Specialist Advisory Service has supported CDC on NDPs for Southbourne, Westbourne and Wisborough Green. Further work is anticipated on West Wittering’s and Hunston NDPs.
  - Egerton Parish Council (Ashford, Kent)– Continued support on site assessments for potential housing allocations (Ashford Borough Council).
  - Horsham District Council – The Specialist Advisory Service won a contract with HDC in November 2019 to support all their NDPs while the District Council concentrated on their Local Plan. Officers have been supporting HDC in providing support to 15 NDPs in the District (including one Business Neighbourhood Forum). Officers have been preparing Pre Submission and Submission responses to NDPs on behalf of HDC. Responding to Examiner’s Questions, preparing Decision Statements and supporting the modification of NDPs in preparation for Referendums. Recently the HDC contract was extended to provide support in preparing all necessary documents and materials for NDP referendums in the District and to provide support for the preparation of the West Chiltington NDP.
  - Officers are in discussion with Cliddesden Parish Council (Basingstoke and Deane) on what support the Specialist Advisory Service may offer to support the development of their NDP.
- 4.2 The Planning White Paper proposed a range of reforms, which would have significant implications for NDPs. This has resulted in some uncertainty on the future of neighbourhood planning and therefore future work for the Specialist Advisory Service in supporting NDPs outside the National Park.
- ### **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. Following the changes to Government advice officers are now starting to meet with Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Planning groups in person where this is requested.

- 5.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government updated the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations on all referendums in March 2020. Part 3 Regulation 13 stated that any NDP referendum that would take place during the relevant period affected will be held in May 2021. These regulations have now been superseded and Neighbourhood Plan referendums are now able to take place with appropriate precautions.

## 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: 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly	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: Chris Paterson

Tel: 01730 819286

email: [chris.paterson@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:chris.paterson@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 <a href="https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/">https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/</a>

<b>SDNPA Led NDPs</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Housing Numbers Compared with the SDLP</b>		<b>Links to relevant documents (where applicable)</b>
Funtington	Funtington Parish Council took the decision to prepare a NDP in March 2021. The Parish Council submitted a request to have the Parish designated for the purpose of preparing an NDP on March 2021, the Neighbourhood Plan area was formally designated on March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2021	NDP SDLP	TBC 0	<a href="#">Funtington Neighbourhood Plan</a>
Findon	Following the publication of the Examiners Report for the Updated Findon NDP (uFNDP) officers took the Decision Statement for the uFNDP to Planning Committee for approval in January 2020. Due to the nature of the modifications, which were primarily to align the Findon NDP with the SDLP it was decided that the modifications would only constitute as minor (in line with the definition in the NPPG). Therefore, there was not a need for a Referendum for the amended FNDP to form part of the Development Plan for the SDNPA.	NDP: SDLP:	33-38 30	<a href="#">SDNPA Decision Statement</a>
Rogate and Rake	<p>The Rogate and Rake NDP was published for Regulation 16 (submission) consultation from 19<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. SDNPA Planning Committee agreed the SDNPA response to the consultation on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The SDNPA set out a range of comments on the Submission version of the NDP seeking further clarification on policy wording and ensuring the NDPs policies aligned with the SDLP. The Examiner's report was published on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and SDNPA Planning Committee agreed the SDNPA Decision Statement on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The NDP includes two housing allocations to meet the housing provision set out in the SDLP. The NDP will go to Community referendum on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The referendum was held on 1 July 2021 with the following result:</p> <p>Turn out = 19.4%</p> <p>Votes &amp; % in favour = 188 (78.7 %)</p> <p>Votes &amp; % against = 51 (21.3%)</p>	NDP SDLP	13 11	<a href="#">Rogate and Rake NDP Referendum version</a> <a href="#">Rogate and Rake Decision Statement</a>

<p>Stedham with Iping</p>	<p>The Stedham with Iping NDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 the referendum was delayed until May 2021. The referendum was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the following result:</p> <p>Turn out = 44%</p> <p>Votes &amp; % in favour = 269 (88.78%)</p> <p>Votes &amp; % against = 34 (11.22%)</p> <p>The Examiner concluded that the Stedham with Iping NDP with modifications met the legislative obligations/rights to become part of the Development Plan. No information has subsequently arisen to suggest the making of the Stedham with Iping NDP would be in breach with or incompatible with the legislation. The Stedham with Iping NDP was Made at SDNPA Planning Committee on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021</p>	<p>NDP: N/a (16 allocated in submission, but policy deleted)</p> <p>SDLP: 16 (Stedham Sawmill SD88)</p>	<p><a href="#">Stedham with Iping Made NDP</a></p> <p><a href="#">SDNPA Decision Statement</a></p>
<p>Twyford</p>	<p>Following a comprehensive review of the comments made during the Pre Submission consultation on the Twyford NDP, Twyford Parish Council modified the NDP and submitted the plan to the SDNPA in December 2020. The Regulation 16 (Submission) consultation was held between January and March 2021, SDNPA Planning Committee agreed the SDNPA response to the consultation at a Planning Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed as the Independent Examiner and the Examination of the Twyford NDP started in April 2021. The NDP group and SDNPA officers have provided a response to a series of questions set out in the Examiner's clarification note. The Examiner has asked for clarification on a number of matters, particularly how the Twyford NDP aligns with the policies in the SDLP</p>	<p>NDP: 20 (Pre-submission)</p> <p>SDLP: 20</p>	<p><a href="#">TPC response to Examiners clarification note</a></p> <p><a href="#">Examiners Clarification note</a></p> <p><a href="#">Twyford Submission NDP</a></p> <p><a href="#">SDNPA response to Twyford Submission consultation</a></p>

Other Local Authority-Led NDPs	Update	Housing Numbers Compared with Existing LP and Submission SDLP	Links to relevant documents (where applicable)
Aldingbourne	The updated Aldingbourne NDP was submitted to Arun District Council in January 2021. The Regulation 16 (Submission) consultation took place between 4th February 2021 and 1st April 2021. A Decision Statement was published by Arun District Council, in agreement with SDNPA in June 2021. The Aldingbourne NDP was Made by Arun District Council on 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 and will be considered by the SDNPA at its Planning Committee in August 2021	NDP: 37 SDLP: n/a Arun Local Plan:	<a href="#">Aldingbourne NDP – Referendum Version</a>
Boxgrove	The Boxgrove NDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 the referendum was delayed until May 2021. The referendum was held on 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the following result:  Turn out = 42.2% Votes & % in favour = 305 (89.44%) Votes & % against = 36 (10.56%) The Boxgrove NDP was Made by SDNPA Planning Committee on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	NDP 0 SDLP n/a CDC Local Plan	<a href="#">Boxgrove NDP Referendum version</a>
Bramber	The Bramber NDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 the referendum was delayed until May 2021. The referendum was held on 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the following result:  Turn out = 45.95% Votes & % in favour = 278 (89.68%) Votes & % against = 32 (10.32%)  The Bramber NDP was Made by SDNPA Planning Committee on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	NDP: 0 SDLP: n/a Horsham Local Plan:	<a href="#">Bramber NDP – Made Plan</a>



Bramshott and Liphook	Officers continue to work with Bramshott and Liphook NDP group in the preparation of the NDP. Recently SDNPA officers provided feedback on the Scoping report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SDNPA highlighted the importance of the National Park designation for the part of the Parish within the National Park, and requested that the SEA refer to the updated Landscape Character Assessment in the evidence base for the SEA	NDP	TBC	<a href="#">Bramshott and Liphook NDP webpage</a>
Henfield	The Henfield NDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 the referendum was delayed until May 2021. The referendum was held on 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the following result:  Turn out = 47.95% Votes & % in favour = 2,085 (90.53%) Votes & % against = 218 (9.47%)  The Henfield NDP was Made by SDNPA Planning Committee on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	NDP SDLP HDC Local Plan	270 n/a	<a href="#">Henfield Neighbourhood Plan</a>
Pulborough	Pulborough Parish Council submitted the Pulborough NDP to Horsham District Council (HDC) for Submission consultation in October 2020. The Regulation 16 (Submission) consultation was held between 18 November 2020 and 13 January 2021. Following an initial review of the plan, Pulborough Parish Council in consultation with HDC submitted new evidence to support the NDP. A further period of consultation was carried out between 6 April to and 7 June 2021. The plan is now at Examination	NDP: SDLP:	0 n/a	<a href="#">Pulborough NDP – Submission Version</a>
Rowlands Castle	Officers have been working closely with the NDP group to progress the Rowlands Castle NDP supporting EHDC as the lead Authority. SDNPA officers provided feedback on an informal draft of the NDP under delegated officer powers. The SDNPA response highlighted the importance of a robust evidence base to support policies in the NDP and requested that the NDP reflect the designation of the National Park which forms part of the Parish	NDP SDLP EHDC Local Plan	0 n/a	<a href="#">Rowlands Castle NDP webpage</a>
Rottingdean	Rottingdean Parish Council published their Regulation 14 (Pre Submission) draft NDP for consultation from 4 February – 9 April 2021. SDNPA provided a response to the Pre Submission plan under delegated officer powers. The SDNPA response highlighted the importance of referring to the National Park status, particularly where the proposed Settlement Policy Boundary would fall	NDP SDLP BHCC City Plan	0 n/a	<a href="#">Rottingdean Pre Submission NDP</a>

	immediately adjacent to the National Park boundary, requesting that the setting of the National Park be a key consideration in any planning application.			
Upper Beeding	<p>The Upper Beeding NDP was due to proceed to Referendum in May 2020, unfortunately due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 the referendum was delayed until May 2021. The referendum was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the following result:</p> <p>Turn out = 39.31%</p> <p>Votes &amp; % in favour = 999 (85.24%)</p> <p>Votes &amp; % against = 173 (14.76%)</p> <p>The Upper Beeding NDP was Made by SDNPA Planning Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p>	NDP SDLP HDC Local Plan	109 n/a	<a href="#">Bramber NDP referendum version</a>
Wisborough Green	<p>Wisborough Parish Council carried out a review of the Made NDP have prepared an update to the Wisborough Green NDP. The updated Wisborough Green NDP is currently published for Regulation 14 (Pre Submission Consultation) from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. SDNPA officers are preparing a response to the Regulation 14 consultation</p>	NDP SDLP CDC Local Plan	40 n/a	<a href="#">Wisborough Green NDP review Pre Submission Plan</a>
Walberton	<p>Walberton Neighbourhood Plan Referendum was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the following result</p> <p>Turn out = 42.03%</p> <p>Votes &amp; % in favour = 693 (91.19%)</p> <p>Votes &amp; % against = 65 (8.55%)</p> <p>The Walberton NDP was ‘made’ by Arun District Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July and SDNPA under officer delegated Authority on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</p>	NDP SDLP ADC Local Plan	68 n/a	<a href="#">Walberton NDP review</a>
Westbourne	<p>Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan will go to Community Referendum on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Following the referendum the NDP will be made by SDNPA on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021</p>	NDP SDLP CDC Local Plan	28 n/a	<a href="#">Westbourne NDP Referendum Version</a>

### 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 (updated)	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
Boxgrove	10 June 2021	14 March 2013	42.2%	N/A
Bramber	10 June 2021	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	45.95%	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 <sup>1</sup>
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 (updated)	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
Henfield	10 June 2021	10 December 2013	47.95%	N/A
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common	14 March 2015	13 September 2012	42.0%	N/A

<b>Made Plans</b>	<b>Date Made by SDNPA</b>	<b>Date of SDNPA Area Designation</b>	<b>Referendum Turnout</b>	<b>Cost *</b>
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 <sup>1</sup>
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 <sup>th</sup> 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
Rogate and Rake	12 August 2021	14 March 2013	19.4%	TBC
Seaford	12 March 2020	18 January 2016	31.8%	N/A
Stedham with Iping	10 June	1 August 2017	44%	£10,146
Storrington, Sullington & Washington	12 September 2019	10 December 2013	19.13%	N/A
Upper Beeding	10 June 2021	12 December 2013	39.31%	N/A
Walberton	9 March 2017	14 March 2013	48%	N/A
Westbourne	12 August 2021	27 November 2013		N/A
Wisborough Green	9 June 2016	13 September 2012	36.6%	N/A
Woodmancote	15 June 2017	17 February 2014	46%	N/A

<sup>1</sup> The cost of the referendum is not yet included in this figure