

# SOUTH DOWNS PLANNING

## NEWS FROM YOUR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



Welcome to the planning newsletter for the South Downs National Park Authority  
Send your comments to us at [planningnewsletter@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:planningnewsletter@southdowns.gov.uk)

## Major £2m boost for local communities

**New cycle tracks, better bridleways, school playground improvements and work to enhance a precious chalk stream are among the projects to benefit from a major funding boost from the South Downs National Park Authority.**

Just under £2m will benefit 38 community schemes across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex.

The investment comes from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is paid by developers to support new local infrastructure, with the Authority playing an administrative role.

As well as the £1.95m, 40 parish councils across the National Park will be taking a share of just over £550,000 to support grassroots projects in their area.

Among the inspiring projects will be those that help connect people to the countryside, including funding for the final phase of the Egrets Way, completing the 'missing link' between Piddinghoe and Deans Farm in East Sussex. Once completed, the 7-mile walking and cycling path will provide an easy connection through the National Park from Lewes to Newhaven.

Significant funding is also going towards the restoration of Cockshut Chalk stream, one of only 200 chalk streams in the world. The project will help create over six hectares of wetland, including restoration of the natural course of the stream, removal of invasive non-native species, tree planting and the creation of a new bank to improve public access.

In West Sussex, funding will help scores of schoolchildren at Fittleworth Primary School through changes to their playground to learn about climate change, sustainable water management (SuDs) and nature recovery while a cash injection will provide improvements at Pulborough



Brooks, including more accessible trails and an upgraded visitor centre. Funding will also help install a road crossing at South Harting.

In Hampshire, funding will help support outdoor fitness equipment and a multi-use games area in Liss. Investment will upgrade the network of bridleways around Marwell Zoo – a scheme that is linked to a future project of providing an off-road route between Winchester and Marwell. In East Meon, funding will help support a range of highway improvements in the village.

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at the South Downs National Park Authority, said: "As 2022 draws to a close, we're pleased to announce this significant funding of over £2m to help local communities across the region.

"It's wonderful to see such a diverse range of projects that will help people of all ages, supporting communities across the National Park, as well as people living outside who want to be able to access the South Downs and enjoy its biodiversity and beauty.

"This significant CIL funding emphasises the value of good planning and shows the benefits that flow from high-quality development in a protected landscape such as the South Downs."

The South Downs National Park Authority has opened the call for projects for the 2022/23 round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. The window for submission of Expressions of Interest will be open until 31 January 2023.

CIL funding is designed to be spent on infrastructure to support growth within the National Park. The National Park's corporate plan priorities over the next three years are Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All and the authority welcomes potential bids that support these priorities. For more information, visit [website](#).

#### The full list of projects to benefit by county:

##### East Sussex

**Egrets Way** – Phase 7, 0.8km North Piddinghoe to Deans Farm, a shared-use path: £300,000

**Regeneration of the Cockshut Chalk stream** – creation of 6.8ha wetland including the restoration of the natural course of the stream, enhance flow and connectivity to the floodplain and Lewes Brooks, removal of invasive non-native species, tree planting and creation of new bank to enhance public access: £150,000

**Seven Sisters Country Park** – A National Park for all: Improving Accessibility – Warden accommodation to support year-round tourism and providing new facility block for Camping Barn: £96,000

**Buzz Active** – Improvements to Canoe Barn at Cuckmere, including flood protection measures and improved entranceway: £43,000.

**Landport Skatepark, Lewes** – new cycle track and skatepark at Landport Recreation Ground: £50,000

**Lewes area** – surface and habitat improvements to 1074m of Ouse Valley Way to enable year-round access to riverside path: £40,000

**OVESCo – Get Bikery, Lewes** – Ecargo bike service for Lewes: £27,000

**Iford** – off-road cycle way from Iford to Swanborough, including upgrade of footpath to permissive cycle path and bridleway. £26,000

**Iford Bridleway** – surface works to recently designated Iford Rise Farm Bridleway to enable year round shared use and adding to Ouse Valley Cycle Network: £15,000

**South Malling School** – replace and enhance playground equipment: £34,500

**Keymer Road, Ditchling** – new Parish-managed car park: £10,000

**Improve mound by Heart of Reeds, Lewes Railway Land Local Nature Reserve** – improvements to paths and handrails, additional wildflower planting: £10,000

**St Thomas a Becket Church, Lewes** – Make safe the 15th Century spiral staircase to Grade II\* listed Church to enable public access again: £2,500

##### West Sussex

**Fittleworth Primary School Playground improvements** - project will focus on adapting to climate change, demonstrating sustainable water management (SuDs) and nature recovery as well as providing education, play and sporting opportunities: £200,000

**Pulborough Brooks Takes Flight** – improved visitor centre, upgrades and more accessible trails, improved volunteer facilities: £110,000

**Bury C of E Primary School (South Downs Ambassador School)** – Classroom extension to accommodate Year 5 and 6 pupils as they progress through the school: £100,000

**Upper Beeding** – Riverside walk improvements (includes 350m extension): £35,000

**Steyning to Washington** – a Proposed Permissive Bridleway (685m of surface improvements and installation of gates): £25,000.

**South Harting** - installation of Road Crossing on B2146 to South Gardens (the 14 acres of recreational space): £25,000

**Petworth** – Installation of solar panels at Sylvia Beaufoy Youth Centre: £20,660

**Petworth Park Sports Ground** – Sports and recreation equipment: £20,000

**Upper Beeding** – redesign and rebuild of existing facilities at Small Dole Skatepark: £10,000

**Stedham Recreation Ground Improvements** – replacement of old climbing frame with new rope pyramid and seesaw: £9,000

**Arundel** – New map and information board at Town Quay: £3,000

##### Hampshire

**Liss** – Newman Collard Recreation Improvements - outdoor fitness equipment and Multi-use Games Area: £118,000

**Marwell to Winchester Bridleways** - upgrade network of Bridleways in and around Marwell Zoo and Hotel - up to 1.5km of surfacing and drainage works (linked to future project to deliver off-road link from Marwell to Winchester): £100,000

**Greatham Village Hall Recreation Ground** – creation of all-inclusive accessible playground to replace existing playground: £90,000

**Buriton Village Hall Enhancements** – energy efficiency improvements - 12kw solar PV and provision of two fast-charge EV charging points: £50,000

**Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Clanfield** – Changing Places Accessible Toilet: £40,000

**Selborne** – Traffic calming scheme – improve entrances to Selborne and widen footways: £40,000

**The Petersfield School** – installation of Climbing Wall that will also be open to community groups: £29,000

**Access Improvements to the Watercress Way, Winchester** (such as re-profiling of land, installation of hand rails and changes to existing ramps): £20,000

**Meonstoke C of E Infant School** - To improve a wooded area and bark pathways within the school grounds: £18,000

**East Tisted** – Highway improvements including review and reduction of existing highway signs, bespoke village gateway signs and new fingerposts): £15,000

**East Meon** - Highway improvements including review and reduction of existing highway signs, bespoke village gateway signs and new fingerposts: £15,000

**Sheet** – Highway improvements including reduction of junction with Village Green, various measures on London Road - improved crossing points, and decluttering of signage: £15,000

**Twyford** – Flood Alleviation Scheme (to fund Phase 1 - construct 115m length ditch to replace 90m section of pipe on Hazeley Road): £8,748.26

## Green light for affordable homes



**Twenty-five new affordable homes have been approved as part of the redevelopment of a brownfield site.**

The Authority's Planning Committee voted to give the green light to plans submitted by Metis Homes for 69 homes on land at the former Brickworks and current West Sussex County Council Depot site in Bepton Road.

It comes after a previous application was refused on a number of grounds, including overdevelopment of the northern part of the site.

The approved plans now include 12 affordable rented flats and 13 shared ownership houses.

A total of £100,000 is set to be invested by the developer to deliver access and path improvements at nearby Midhurst Common, together with a £12,660 contribution to deliver ecological compensation measures on the Common.

The provision of a public footpath and cycle route through the site is among the benefits of the development. This will safeguard a potential future non-motorised travel route along the former Petersfield to Pulborough railway line. Historically part of the site was the Midhurst Brickworks, famed for producing the 'Midhurst White'. The brickworks closed in 1985 and some of the original structures remain in situ.

Access to the site will be from Bepton Road, with a dedicated right hand turn lane within the site to serve the existing Household Waste Recycling Centre which will remain in situ. The approved development includes a number of features tailored to helping the environment, including 10% green roofs and provision of electric vehicle charging points for all properties.

The scheme will achieve an approximate site average of 17% reduction in regulated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions through a fabric first approach and with the inclusion of PV panels it will reduce to a site average of 40.5%. Eight homes will be to Passive House standards and water consumption will be limited to 84.7 litres per person per day.



Kelly Porter, Major Projects Lead, said: "This site is a long-standing allocation in our South Downs Local Plan and it's great that we've been able to work with the developer to reach a high-quality development.

"It will provide much-needed affordable homes for local people."

## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY High Court ruling for National Park



**A High Court battle has been won to save a swathe of agricultural land from development.**

East Hampshire District Council's planning enforcement officers and legal team, working on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority, successfully applied for an injunction to stop development on Westbury Park, near East Meon.

The farmland was recently bought by property firm HT Land Reading Ltd and split into smaller plots to be sold as 'amenity land'.

Soon afterwards the council received complaints from residents of increasing levels of activity on the site. Large 'expedition' tents were erected, fire pits dug and other wooden structures began to appear on some of the plots.

In a bid to prevent further harm to the area the council sought a temporary pre-emptive injunction, stopping further development.

The team were back in court earlier this December and successfully applied for the injunction to be made permanent.

Cllr Robert Mocatta, EHDC councillor for the area and a National Park Authority Member, said: "This is a very popular decision among the local residents who were worried about what might end up happening to the site.

"This is a very sensitive site, inside the South Downs National Park and it needs to be properly protected."

The land, at Coombe Lane, was split into 47 plots. The injunction forbids owners to develop their plots without express planning permission.

Many of the new owners were happy to agree not to develop their plots before the hearing. Following the hearing some enforcement notices may be issued requiring owners to remove existing structures.

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at the National Park Authority, said: "This is a significant win and underlines the importance of being aware of restrictions on land you buy and that it's vital to apply for planning permission in a treasured landscape that's been designated for the nation.



"This was a serious infringement of planning rules that was causing local harm and we're pleased we've been able to work with East Hampshire District Council to reach this successful outcome."

## Plan is refused over design



**Plans for a 62-bedroom care home in Midhurst town centre were refused over concerns about the design and its potential detrimental impact on the townscape.**

The National Park Authority's Planning Committee voted to refuse plans to redevelop a vacant brownfield site that was previously occupied by the former leisure centre in Bepton Road.

The proposals for "The Grange Development Site" included a 2.5 storey building with associated facilities, parking and landscaping.

Officers said a C2 use for the site was acceptable, in principle, as there is no policy requirement to safeguard the site for other uses, nor was there considered to be an in principle objection for a care home in this location.

However, the application was refused for a number of reasons, including that the design was considered to be unacceptable.

Lead Specialist Mark Waller-Gutierrez said: "The building has some successful elements such as the use of strong gables, articulation of the building lines but the traditional approach adopted includes contemporary elements which result in the building being neither one or the other. The material palette also fails to root the building in Midhurst."

And Mark added: "The proposals risk creating an oppressive relationship with neighbours to the north due to its footprint and height.

"The scheme fails to be landscape led and fails to capitalise on potential wider green infrastructure and ecosystems services benefits. It needs to explore green infrastructure and SuDs solutions.

"We recommend the building be reduced in size and materials used and better reflect the local palette, as well as improve the sustainable construction of the proposal in terms of multifunctional SuDS and further green roofs."

A report said the proposal would neither preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Midhurst Conservation Area.

Midhurst Town Council had objected to the plans.

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning, added: "We've rightly set the bar high for design as this is what the South Downs National Park and its communities deserve.

"I would recommend all developers take a landscape-led approach, engage early and a very good starting point is our Adopted Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document."

The document can be read [here](#).

## Decision upheld by Inspector



**The Planning Inspectorate has upheld a decision by the National Park Authority to refuse a residential scheme on a wooded area in the countryside.**

Last year the Authority refused outline plans for eight homes and associated access, car parking and landscaping at Kingsmead Close, Bramber, West Sussex, on a site protected by a woodland Tree Preservation Order.

The application was refused because the site is outside the settlement boundary and the proposal conflicted with policies set out in the adopted South Downs Local Plan and Bramber Neighbourhood Plan that resist development in the rural area.

The Authority's report said: "The proposal, by reason of its uncharacteristic extension of the settlement and incongruous, urban layout and landscaping, would generate significant intrinsic harm to landscape character and the permanent and irreversible loss of broadleaf woodland, that would fail to conserve or enhance this part of the National Park, or the rural setting of Steyning. The development would also have a negative visual impact on longer views from the South Downs Way."

The appellant submitted evidence arguing there would not be significant harmful impact on the landscape and woodland habitat.

Awarding full costs to the Authority, Planning Inspector Nick Palmer said: "I found in my decision on the appeal that the Housing Need Assessment that was undertaken to inform the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not weigh in favour of the development because it does not take account of constraints including the National Park designation. Furthermore, the site was rejected by the Parish Council for allocation.

"Although there are differences of opinion as to whether the development would accord with policies regarding landscape and ecological impacts, it is clear that, as a matter of principle, the proposed development is not in accordance with the development plan which restricts development in the countryside outside settlement boundaries."

Following the decision, Stella New, Development Management Lead, said: "These proposals were clearly contrary to both the South Downs Local Plan and Bramber Neighbourhood Plan and we're pleased with the outcome. The National Park has a very high level of protection and building a housing development outside the settlement boundary in such a sensitive area, plus loss of priority woodland habitat, would be very harmful."

# Pillars of planning remain firm in a year of change



Looking back on a busy and productive 2022 for the Planning Authority, I'm reflecting on some broad themes that are consistent in planning year after year. It's certainly been a year of promised change, as well as challenges and uncertainty in the UK and abroad, with a long list of announcements that have an impact on planning in one way or another (the fracking U-turn springs to mind).

Yet the core of planning remains the same.

We operate on three broad fronts and we must never lose sight of these pillars: managing and enabling growth; conserving and enhancing the best of what we have; and social equity in the environment. These themes apply to both urban and rural areas, albeit with different considerations.

With this in mind, I often come back to the stark reality that whilst we live in a highly urbanised country, over 90 per cent of the UK landmass is countryside. What we do in the rural sphere is massively important especially if we can increase access to the countryside. The work of Planning Authorities with large swathes of countryside – and furthermore as custodians of nationally-important landscapes – is therefore very meaningful at local, regional and national scale.

As I write, a report from the House of Lords Land Use in England Commission has been published. I gave evidence to this work and the report lays out their priorities for a land use framework, which would broadly divide up the land in England and decide where is best for different types of agriculture, as well as carbon sequestration, nature restoration and recreation. This directly relates to the three pillars outlined above. Just as importantly, the report advises access to green space should be prioritised when deciding how to use land, whether through the Planning system or otherwise. Greater access is necessary, with the all-party parliamentary group advising that this is "important for health and wellbeing, especially in urban and peri-urban locations near where people live". This is so relevant to the South Downs National Park and the many millions who live in or close by it.

The report is also critical of the current UK farming system. Jake Fiennes, the director of Holkham nature reserve in Norfolk, told the commission that "current

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agricultural and farming practices are generally unsustainable for the medium to long term. Our reliance on synthetic inputs and the effects they have on the wider environment are all too clear".

As with Planning, the report criticises the government for uncertainty around the post-Brexit farming payments, which are supposed to deliver nature recovery. Details around these have been delayed, with reports that the initially ambitious schemes are set to be weakened. Seems to echo the much-heralded Planning reforms!

All of the emerging and promised changes through a myriad of Acts, Bills and a promised consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework before Christmas mean we have to be adaptable. With Local Nature Recovery Strategies starting in earnest next April and mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain next November, we as planners will have to grapple with and, ultimately, deliver on this mix of land use and land management.

Our emphasis at the National Park Authority will rightly, continue to be proper placemaking and nature recovery. A healthy rural economy, with opportunities for all and embracing well-measured growth, ultimately feeds a healthy rural environment and visa versa.

As I write this, it's been announced by the Government that housing targets will be advisory and Local Planning Authorities will be allowed to build fewer homes if they can show that hitting the target would significantly change the character of an area.

National Parks, of course, do not have "housing targets". But nevertheless I believe this general policy shift is a positive step in the right direction, championing the benefits of localism. Working with communities through engagement in many areas can deliver better results. This is evidenced by the National Park's successful approach to neighbourhood planning. It's a real achievement that 40 Neighbourhood Development Plans are now incorporated into the South Downs Local Plan.

Talking of achievements, there are a couple I would like to touch on briefly:

- The National Park Authority winning a Chair's Award from the Royal Town Planning Institute for our record in helping to deliver greener planning was a highlight of 2022 for me. To receive this endorsement means a lot, particularly because it relates to our overall strategy, development plan and implementation on the ground, rather than any specific policy document or development.
- We've collaborated successfully with other National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in the planning sphere and as referred to above gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on land use. Long may this kind of joined-up thinking continue!



Many thanks and I hope all have a well-deserved Christmas break.

**Tim Slaney,**  
**Director of Planning, South Downs National Park Authority**

## Integration of plan-making



### **A planning blueprint for the future development of Shoreham Cement Works will be incorporated into the Authority's Local Plan Review.**

Members at a meeting of the National Park Authority voted to integrate the Area Action Plan (AAP) and Local Plan Review into a single planning document.

It comes after a consultation this summer looked at possible options for Shoreham Cement Works and received a total of 2,858 representations that are currently being processed.

Last August the Authority also launched its "Call for Sites" as the Authority began a review of its Local Plan – a process that is required by law to ensure the Local Plan is up-to-date.

Following this summer's general call-out, the Authority will be carrying out a park-wide Land Availability Assessment. This will involve looking at the suitability of all the submitted sites.

The integration of the AAP and Local Plan Review means the timetable has been adjusted, with the first draft documents out for consultation in 2024-2025.

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning, explained that the decision had been made for a number of important reasons, including an uncertain future for AAPs.

He said: "There is a considerable amount of uncertainty in plan making at the moment.

"The radical changes proposed in the Planning for the Future White Paper in 2020 were not forthcoming, but the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) published in May this year and currently going through Parliament would make significant changes to plan making once enacted.

"If the LURB goes forward, there will be a single local plan for a local planning authority and any additional plans such as Area Action Plans will potentially be demoted to a supplementary plan.

"Therefore, in the interests of the need for efficiency of resources and certainty for the public, we've taken the decision to integrate these two important planning processes into one document.

"Both are key pieces of work in planning for the future of the National Park and will be subject to further public consultation."

## Water neutrality update



### **Katharine Stuart, Planning Policy Lead, provides a useful update.**

The SDNPA continues to work jointly with other affected Local Planning Authorities (Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council, and Chichester District Council), Natural England and Southern Water on the water neutrality issue affecting planning applications in the Sussex North Water Resource Zone area.

A study and mitigation strategy was commissioned by Crawley, Horsham and Chichester councils to support their plan making. SDNPA has worked closely with the commissioning authorities on this.

The third stage of this work, the 'Part C Mitigation Strategy' report is now complete and can be read [here](#).

It outlines a strategy to achieve water neutrality within the Sussex North Water Resource Zone, throughout the timeframe covered by the Local Plans of the affected authorities. The strategy has been endorsed by Natural England.

Going forward, the authorities will now be working together to develop the offsetting scheme outlined in the strategy. It should be noted that the Natural England Position Statement continues to apply, and planning applications remain subject to water neutrality requirements.

## Latest on minerals and waste



### **Chris Paterson, Planning Policy Lead, gives an update.**

We've been working in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council on the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan Review. The review has focused on updating policies for the production of minerals and the safeguarding of minerals facilities and minerals resources in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove area. The Plan was submitted for Examination in May, and the Public Examination Hearings were held in November. We expect to hear more on the outcome of the hearings in the New Year.

Meanwhile, in Hampshire, we've been working with the four other minerals and waste planning authorities in Hampshire (Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council) to produce a partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

Amongst other things the plan seeks to ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to ensure that Hampshire can meet demand, for example, in the supply of sand, gravel and brickmaking clay to build houses, schools, hospitals and roads. A 12-week online consultation has opened for stakeholders to comment on proposed updates to policies, as well as provide additional helpful local knowledge about sites that have been identified for minerals extraction and transportation.

To comment on the plan please visit the consultation pages [here](#).

## Section 106 Update



**Gill Welsman, Planning Project Management Officer, gives an update on recent Section 106 completions.**

Four affordable homes have benefitted from S106 funding for the retrospective installation of solar panels.

The project reduces reliance on the National Grid infrastructure and means the homes are more sustainable and energy efficient moving forwards.

The scheme has been progressed quickly to ensure residents will see a direct benefit from the installation through reduced utility costs this winter.



The first phase of improvements to facilities at Petworth Sports Pavilion have been completed following the receipt of a grant to refurbish the main bar and social area.

The project hopes to encourage more community events at the sports ground and refurbishment of the main social area at this stage of the project enables the pavilion to remain operational while funding is secured to improve toilet and changing facilities on site.



For details of other S106 projects that have been funded visit the S106 Case Studies page on the [SDNPA website](#).

## Highlights of year revealed



**Greater protection for rare heaths, over 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of new completed employment space and almost 100 new visitor accommodation units are among the**

**highlights of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).**

This is the eighth Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) produced by the SDNPA and the third to be produced since the adoption of the South Downs Local Plan (SDLP) in July 2019.

The AMR reports on a number of planning documents including the SDLP, numerous neighbourhood development plans and adopted and emerging waste and minerals plans. The AMR reports on the financial year 2021-22, which is the eighth year of the 2014-2033 plan period for the SDLP.

Kevin Wright, Planning Policy Officer, said: "One of the highlights of the monitoring year was that all the neighbourhood planning areas given a provision figure for housing in the Local Plan have now been made part of the development plan for the National Park. This was following the referendum for the Twyford Neighbourhood Development Plan in January 2022.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on development in the year and this is reflected in some of the reported figures."

Here are a number of interesting findings highlighted in the 2021/22 AMR:

### **A Thriving, Living Landscape**

- 35 per cent average Biodiversity Net Gain on largest scale development sites.
- Limit on residential development within the 400m zone of the sensitive Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area (SPA) has been reached. Therefore there will be no further permissions for additional new dwellings within the 400m zone to prevent an adverse effect on the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.

### **People Connected with Places**

- Completion of further 680m of non-motorised user footpath on the Egrets Way as phase 5 was finished
- A total of 99 units of visitor accommodation were permitted including 40 holiday lodges at Marwell Activity Centre

### **Towards a Sustainable Future**

- A net total of 2008 dwellings benefit from planning permission but are unbuilt.
- Of these 507 are defined as affordable homes.
- 172 new homes were completed in the National Park,
- We have a 5.9 year supply of deliverable housing sites
- 10,507m<sup>2</sup> net total of completed employment floorspace
- Conversion and change of use of agricultural buildings repurposed to provide 5,470m<sup>2</sup> of new employment floorspace

## Latest planning stats

Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate	<b>18</b>
Appeals started	<b>11</b>
Appeals determined	<b>9</b>
Appeals successfully defended	<b>7</b>
Statutory submissions received	<b>1,067</b>
Statutory submissions determined	<b>1,107</b>
Neighbours notified	<b>4,053</b>
Representations received	<b>1,078</b>
Consultations issued	<b>2,983</b>
Conditions imposed	<b>3,608</b>
Enquiries for planning advice	<b>333</b>
Enforcement complaints received	<b>192</b>
Enforcement cases opened	<b>162</b>
Enforcement related site inspections	<b>195</b>
Enforcement notices served	<b>8</b>
Enforcement cases closed	<b>167</b>

(data for the last full quarter)

## Meet the planner

For this edition, find out more about **Kevin Wright, Planning Policy Officer.**

Three words that sum up your job in planning?

Artisan, Figures, Perseverance

Okay, so what's your role at the National Park?



Planning Policy officer – One of my main tasks during the year is producing the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). This is a leviathan of a document with several heads. The AMR tells us how effective our plan is, and whether we're meeting our vision and objective for the National Park. This is critical in ensuring our plan delivers the purposes and duty. There are a lot of numbers!

Apart from this, I support the evidence gathering for the team, including the work we're currently doing on the Local Plan Review.

With help from my planning colleagues, I was also the author of the Parking Supplementary Planning Document.

**What appealed to you about working in planning?**

I did geography as a degree. Planning is arguably applied human geography. That was the connection and I liked the idea of making a difference in people's lives through good planning.

**Can you describe your typical day?**

Recently it involved a lot of time looking at spreadsheets and doing calculations. Thankfully, this is only for an

intense couple of months during the year. I get to go out on site for a lot of the evidence gathering. This is great and an opportunity to think about the possibilities of a site and the opportunity for good planning.

**Best thing about working in planning for a National Park?**

I love the connection to the landscape. I enjoy the people that work here and the feeling there is for the place.

**What do you love about the South Downs National Park?**

I grew up in the area and fairly close to the sea. When I have lived away, it was always the South Downs I missed more than the coast. Lots of memories from childhood of the Downs. It is a beautiful place.

**Currently reading/watching?**

The World Cup. I love sport. Now more watching than playing. I do love a bit of football. I have found I can watch the game at any level and get some enjoyment from it. Usually observing what people do and their decision making and thinking what would I have done in that situation. This works well when watching a game at the local park – less so at the World Cup! I can only do a tiny fraction of what the international players do. Who would have thought?!

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Beans on toast with cheese. I suspect it may be a short life.

**Who inspires you?**

People who suffer and come through adversity.

**Describe your perfect day (when not working, of course!)**

Meeting up with friends and family. Eating and drinking would definitely be involved. As it is the perfect day and therefore unlikely to happen, it would be watching England beat Brazil at lunchtime to win the World Cup. And in the evening Brighton winning the final home game of the season to become Premier League champions. Yes, I do believe in miracles.



Picture credits: P5 Simon Newman; P6 left Richard Reed; P7 right Ron De'Ath