

16 December 2022

Dear Stakeholder

**Subject: Shoreham Cement Works Area Action Plan – Feedback and next steps**

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the South Downs National Park Authority's (SDNPA) consultation on the Shoreham Cement Works Area Action Plan (AAP). The AAP set out the key issues and options for redevelopment of the site, together with detailed background information. We received a high number of responses to the consultation, from a wide range of individuals and organisations. I think this demonstrates how important this site is to people who live locally, work in the area or are visitors to the area.

To encourage responses from a wide range of people and organisations we undertook drone footage of the site, and provided consultation videos to ensure all those participating had an understanding of the site, the wider landscape, its constraints and opportunities. This approach was well received, with many participants commenting on how helpful it was to see the site from a perspective previously unseen by most, including those who live locally or visit regularly. Drone footage and consultation videos can still be seen on our [webpage](#).

We were pleased that a great number of people took the time to respond, 226 individuals and organisations responded to the consultation and made over 2,800 individual comments. We received comments from as far afield as Eastleigh in Hampshire, but the majority of those responding identified themselves as local residents.

We have carried out an initial review of the comments received and a summary of these comments is provided in the attached document. As I am sure you will appreciate there is still further work to be done in considering the large number of comments, which are in some cases very detailed and comprehensive. We are grateful to all participants who have provided such detailed responses, setting out their aspirations for the site. We will be considering these comments as we develop the preferred option for the site.

In terms of the next steps for the AAP, the decision has recently been taken by the Authority to incorporate the Area Action Plan into the South Downs National Park Local Plan Review. The Authority has taken this decision for a number of reasons. Firstly, the decision responds to ongoing significant changes to the planning system recently announced and current uncertainty in regard to Area Action Plans and their status in the planning system going forward. The decision also recognises the current challenges relating to water neutrality in the local area and how this may affect development proposals for the site, especially as at the moment any scheme seeking to evidence water neutrality on the sort of development scale envisaged would be very difficult. It also seems sensible to ensure maximum 'weight' to any Plan and that is best done as part of our Local Plan Review. Finally it means a single set of consultations and Examination in Public in due course, which is more efficient and avoids

duplication. More information on this decision can be found in the [National Park Authority report](#) which was agreed by the Authority on 14 December 2022.

The feedback provided through the consultation will be taken into consideration and proposals will be developed for the site through the Local Plan Review process. We will continue to develop the evidence base for the site which will inform the policy approach for the site, alongside the feedback provided.

It is anticipated that the Local Plan Review document, incorporating a preferred approach for Shoreham Cement Works will be published for further public consultation in January 2025.

I would like to thank everybody who has taken the time to provide valuable input into the process and we look forward to working with stakeholders as we progress this important site through the Local Plan Review.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Paterson', on a light-colored background.

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