

Parish Priorities Statement



Introduction

The South Downs National Park Authority decided in May 2022 that it would review parts of its Local Plan in line with Government Policy and to ensure the Plan delivers on corporate priorities relating to Climate Action, ReNature and a National Park for All. The views and input of the local community into the Local Plan Review are vital to us particularly those of our town and parish councils. One way in which town and parish councils can contribute to the Local Plan Review is through a **Parish Priority Statement (PPS)**.

Neighbourhood Priority Statements (NPS) as a concept were introduced in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), which was published by the Government in May 2022. NPS are statements prepared by local communities that summarise the principal needs and prevailing views for their local area. There is currently very little information available from the Government, but this will be provided at a later date through secondary legislation and regulations.

In the interim we are inviting all our town and parish councils that are located entirely in the National Park or whose main settlement is located in the National Park to prepare a PPS. A full list of these councils is set out in the appendix to this letter. It will not be necessary for the Council to be designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning in order to do this. The format and content of PPS follows the very broad approach set out in the LURB, to enable any PPS to evolve into NPS as legislation and guidance is provided by Government.

Please use the attached template to prepare your PPS, following the template will assist the SDNPA in collating information and reviewing priorities across the National Park. There are guidance notes for each question about the sort of information we are looking for. The PPS should focus on the principal needs and prevailing views of your local community. Please identify any opportunities to contribute to the Authority's priorities on Climate Action, Nature Recovery and a National Park for All. More information on these priorities can be found in the [SDNPA Corporate Plan](#). We have indicated a word limit for each section to ensure the documents are focused on the main issues any text beyond the word limit may not be considered by the Authority.

It is really important to gather the views of as many people as possible, who live, work or visit your parish. The second question of the template asks you how you have consulted with your local community. A PPS that demonstrates a high level of community engagement and support will ensure the document will influence when informing the Local Plan Review process. As a minimum the draft PPS should be published inviting comments from the wider community. Town and Parish Councils should also make particular efforts to engage with hard to reach and underrepresented groups such as young people. To help you with the template we have written a PPS for the hypothetical parish of Greenville.

Please submit your PPS to us at the address below by 20 October 2023. Officers from the Authority will review your PPS and get back to you with any queries. The intention is for all PPS to be considered by our Policy and Resources Committee with the intention of publishing them on our website.

Your PPS will not be made part of the development plan for the National Park, but it will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review. We will consider the principal needs and prevailing views set out in your PPS as we progress the Local Plan Review and update local planning policy. PPS will also be useful when applying for funding from the Authority, for example, from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Sustainable Communities Fund. Finally, your PPS may be useful for funding applications to other bodies. Where a Town or Parish Council have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan the PPS will supplement the Plan not supersede it as the PPS will not form part of the Development Plan.

| Information Required | Response |
|----------------------|--|
| | <p>Further priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investment in infrastructure to cope with the threat of 4,000+ new homes. 2. The protection of views north from Wolstonbury Hill over the Low Weald landscape which is under threat from 4000+ new homes. 3. Investment in sustainable/public transport to combat congestion and pollution issues. |

The vision for the future...

What are the three key changes you would like to see in your Parish over the next 15 years? These changes should relate to the priorities set out below. It will also be helpful to explain when you think these changes should happen over the 15 year period.

| <i>The three key priorities for your parish in the next 15 years:</i> |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain more of our young people within the parish, by providing school, employment, housing and social facilities/services for them. Measured by the change in balance of household size from 27% to 30% (single person households: 20–39-year-olds) and 24% to 20% (4+ person households). (By 2039) 2. Enhance the vibrancy of Hurstpierpoint village centre so that it becomes the centre of the community (with access to key services). (Ongoing) 3. Ensure that all new developments are 90% energy self-sufficient. (From 2024) |

Development and management of land

| Information required | Response |
|--|--|
| What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish? | <p>If there is to be any development then it should meet 3 tests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brownfield and infill land 2. Developments should be a coherent community, made up of adjacent neighbourhoods 3. New infrastructure should be in place before new housing |
| Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed? | Only in and surrounding the current communities of Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common and Burgess Hill. |
| Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses? | <p>Hurst Meadows. Land between the existing curtilage of Hurstpierpoint village and Hurstpierpoint College. Land to the north of Hurstpierpoint to the east of the A23 where there is no existing community.</p> |

Homes

| Information required | Response |
|--|---|
| What type of homes would you like to see in your local community? | <p>New housing that meets the need for single person units, rather than larger 4+ person units.</p> <p>Capacity for at least one specialised elderly care home/centre that could provide a community focus for the lonely elderly in the community</p> |
| What size of home is needed locally? | <p>To rebalance the current imbalance to more closely match that of the UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 person households 27% (England 30%) • 2 person households 34% (England 34%) • 3 person households 16% (England 16%) • 4+ households 24% (England 20%) <p>Changing this balance of new housing should increase the number of 20–29-year-olds locally (where there is a significant under-representation).</p> |
| Any other requirements? | <p>Any new housing should be built in a way that minimises energy leakage and are collectively 90% energy self-sufficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels and battery storage • EV charging points • Ground source heat pumps (for individual and/or group/community schemes) • Hydrogen heating |

Design

| Information Required | Response |
|--|--|
| Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community? | <p>Hurstpierpoint High Street</p> <p>Views from the Village especially to the south (Wolstonbury Hill) and to the north (over Hurst College and Low Weald beyond to the North Downs)</p> |
| Particular features of buildings of local character | <p>Historic High Street and Danny House</p> |

The natural environment

| Information Required | Response |
|---|---|
| Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up | <p>The Parish Council is creating a wildlife corridor in Hurst Meadows across the Wilderness and Tilleys Copse ancient woodlands.</p> |

Jobs

| Information Required | Response |
|---|---|
| <p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p> | <p>Retain current significant employers (including Porsche who are about to make a significant investment) such as the independent High Street traders, farming, Washbrooks Farm and Wolstonbury Vineyard.</p> <p>Enhance the vibrancy of Hurstpierpoint village centre so that it becomes the centre of the community (with access to key services).</p> <p>Support home working opportunities and the infrastructure needed to support it.</p> <p>As part of any new significant housing allocation, identify land that can provided opportunities for at least 25% of the number of residents in any new housing allocation above 100.</p> |

Public spaces

| Information Required | Response |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p> | <p>The Parish Council considers the immediate parish area as a green lung for the urban coastal strip under pressure from development, which may harm the bio-diversity of the National Park by constraining wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Hurst Meadows (50 acre countryside site owned and managed by the Parish Council north of Hurstpierpoint Village. Significant nature recovery is taking place not least increases in butterfly breeds and populations.</p> |

Infrastructure

| Information Required | Response |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p> | <p>Provision of travel corridors from any new development to village centres and Hassocks and Burgess Hill. These corridors should be suitable (paved) for walking, cycling, prams and Motability scooters.</p> <p>New developments and the existing villages should be Gigabit enabled.</p> <p>Provision of a circular electric minibus (Sayers Common, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Burgess Hill): Free to parish residents. Aimed at those with no transport and who wish to stay connected to the local service hierarchy.</p> <p>Traffic calming measures for both villages given increased traffic volumes.</p> |

FINALISING YOUR SUBMISSION

As a reminder, before finalising your submission, please check you have addressed the following:

- **You have completed the details in section I, including details of public engagement events and consultation activities which have informed the statement. Where possible please identify the percentage of the community that have engaged in the preparation of the PPS.**
- **Please try to summarise the community's views and aspirations as much as possible, do not provide details of individuals who have commented, and bullet points for key priorities where possible.**
- **If you have supporting evidence or information please use a hyperlink to the data where available, and summarise the information as much as possible in the PPS.**

DISCLAIMER

The assessment process and outputs will feed into the Local Plan review process but we cannot guarantee the delivery of specific community aspirations in the South Downs Local Plan policies, allocations or designations.

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

The information collected in this response form will be used by the National Park Authority, as part of its public task, to inform the local plan-making processes and other relevant Authority documents or processes. This information will then be retained until it is superseded. By responding you are accepting the information within your response, may be made available to the public. Any personal information provided (names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other contact details) will not be made public. Please let us know if you do not wish for your information to be shared in this way.

All information held by the South Downs National Park Authority may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. If any information included is sensitive and you would like to have the opportunity to object to its release in the event of a Freedom of Information request, please contact us.

Further details on how we manage your information, including your rights under the GDPR, are available in our Privacy Notice <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/transparency/privacy-statement-2/>

| Yes | Please tick here to confirm you have read and agree to submit your information in accordance with the disclaimer and data protection statement. |
|----------------------|---|
| Information required | Response |
| Print Name | ██████████ |
| Date | 23.10.2023 |

We ask that forms are returned by email to planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk

If you are unable to return the form by email please post to:
Planning Policy Team, South Downs National Park Authority, South Downs Centre, North Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH