

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.

Vision

Bepton is a small rural parish and we wish to preserve its current character as a place where everyone, both residents and visitors, can enjoy the beautiful countryside that surrounds our village. Any changes should seek to enhance the current attributes of Bepton to ensure it continues to be an attractive place to live, work, raise a family and relax. As one of the parishes at the heart of the South Downs National Park the ongoing preservation and enhancement of all aspects of the park's natural environment and character are vitally important to us.

1. There is an urgent need for provision of full fibre broadband to the middle and northern ends of Bepton as current speeds are very poor and do not provide anywhere near adequate Internet access. This is particularly urgent for the modern trend of home working. This is required within the next year.
2. The Chichester to Midhurst cycleway should be completed as soon as possible. Other Active Travel Infrastructure projects such as footway, footpath and bridleway maintenance and implementation of the Midhurst to Petersfield cycleway should be implemented as soon as practicable.
3. Ongoing reduction of the Bepton parish carbon footprint through the implementation of improved housing insulation and installation of solar panels and heat pumps. Major progress needs to be made within 5 years.

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	We would not want to see new build development in the parish although refurbishing redundant farm buildings into accommodation for people that have grown up in the area and local workers could be considered. Redevelopment of existing houses on a one for one basis of a reasonably similar size and design which fits in with the architectural character of other houses in the parish.
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	None.
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	Much of Bepton parish is farmland and woodland and should be retained as such. All Open Access land, Ancient Woodland and SSSI's must be protected. The Bepton Down Orchid SSSI requires maintenance to ensure its ongoing success. There must be ongoing protection for the East and West Severals areas from Soft Sand extraction. There should be no hydrocarbon extraction permitted in this parish or surrounding area as they are totally at odds with the ethos and policies of the South Downs National Park.

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	Any repurposed farm buildings should be limited to 2, 3 bed homes suitable for local young people or local workers.
What size of home is needed locally?	2,3 bedroom
Any other requirements?	If farm buildings are renovated as domestic dwellings they must be constructed with high insulation standards and be equipped with heat pumps and solar panels to ensure best carbon footprint is achieved.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	Design should be sympathetic to immediate surroundings.
Particular features of buildings of local character	Features should be sympathetic to the character of local surroundings.

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p>We have recently been informed by Cowdray Estate that they will be making a number of environmental improvements, over the next couple of years, on parts of the Estate which lie within the Bepton Parish through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This work will include hedge restoration through hedge laying and coppicing and pond restoration and creation after guidance from Fresh Water Habitats and Natural England. They will also be creating 6 metre margins round a number of fields which will be planted with seed mixes which flower in summer to aid pollinators and provide seeds and berries as food for wildlife during winter. This work will benefit various wildlife species which habituate these areas.</p> <p>The Bepton Down Orchid SSI requires ongoing maintenance to ensure it flourishes in the future.</p>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<p>Farming and forestry are important activities in the parish and should be supported and encouraged as they provide considerable local employment.</p> <p>The Park House Hotel is a long established business within the parish and is a welcome employment provider in the area.</p> <p>We look forward to the Country Inn pub reopening later this year so, under its new management, it can become an important focal point for the community.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</p>	<p>Severals Village Green is a focal point in the northern end of Bepton and should be retained in its current manner.</p> <p>Midhurst Common is immediately adjacent to Bepton Parish and is a highly valued community recreational asset and therefore must be conserved.</p> <p>At the southern end of Bepton parish are the South Downs. Bepton Down and Linch Down are important components of the National Park due to the Ancient Woodland, SSSI, and Access Land they contain. The wonderful views overlooking Bepton from Bepton Down and Linch Down must be protected from inappropriate development.</p> <p>St Mary's Church and church yard are situated at the back of the downs and provide an idyllic location for quiet contemplation.</p>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community building needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</p>	<p>Bepton requires infrastructure improvement in the following areas:</p> <p>Internet Access The middle and north of the parish have yet to receive full fibre broadband and have to make do with very poor internet access speeds. This has a negative impact particularly on home workers and families who use multiple devices online and full fibre broadband must be installed as soon as possible. It is also a potential deterrent to start up home businesses.</p> <p>Active Travel Priorities The Chichester to Midhurst cycleway should be completed as soon as possible. Other Active Travel Infrastructure projects such as footway, footpath and bridleway maintenance and implementation of the Midhurst to Petersfield cycleway should be implemented as soon as practicable. The footpath surface on Bepton Road from the junction of Severals Road down to Pitsham Wood is in poor condition and deters walking particularly in the winter.</p> <p>Renewable Energy Solar Panel installation should be encouraged both at a domestic and solar farm level providing that they are hidden from view from the Downs and other public rights of way.</p> <p>Drainage Infrastructure The southern end of Bepton Road constantly suffers from rain water flowing down the road due to blocked and poorly positioned drainage gullies. Bugshill Lane suffers from flooding at three low lying areas where drainage channels need reviewing.</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/>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please tick here to confirm you have read and agree to submit your information in accordance with the disclaimer and data protection statement. "Tick"
Information required	Response
Print Name	██████████
Date	31/10/23

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 .