

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.

1. Your Details

Information Required	Response
Contact name	██████████
Town or Parish Council	Buriton
Main contact address	██████████ ██████████ ██████████
Main contact phone number	██████████
Main contact email	████████████████████ <i>Submitted to SDNPA after the Parish Council's meeting on 25 September 2023 to meet the SDNPA deadline of 20 October 2023</i>
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council encouraged a local community group (Village Design and Parish Plan group) to lead on this exercise, engaging the wider community in a wide range of ways rather than relying solely on parish councillors • The PPS was discussed in public at every Parish Council meeting from January 2023 to September 2023 (when this submission was approved), developing and modifying content • Public consultation drew upon results from the Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement and Local Landscape Character Assessment exercises • The Parish Magazine was used to raise awareness about the exercise, to summarise early responses and to encourage further submissions • The Community Website was also used to raise awareness about the National Park's Local Plan, the opportunities take part via the PPS process, to summarise early responses and to encourage more • An initial consultation event was held for the entire community in April when part of the large B-Earth Day Village Show was devoted to the PPS with everyone having an opportunity to have their say by writing their thoughts and ideas about each of the topic areas onto large sheets of flip-chart paper or small post-it stickers. Dozens of issues were raised at this initial event • A similar engagement exercise was mounted at the community's popular 'Fun on the Farm' event in June when comments and ideas about each of the PPS topic areas again formed the focus for a healthy cross-section of parishioners and scores of new contributions were made • A third community consultation event took place at an annual school event which provided a particular opportunity for young people and their families. • The Parish Council is confident that this combination of methods and events has yielded representative views for this Parish Priority Statement exercise. The Parish Magazine engages every household in the parish and participation at the three main events engaged about 26% of the population. Of this figure (206 participants) 16% were estimated to be 0-17 years old, 53% were estimated to be 18-64 and 31% were estimated to be over 65. These proportions appear to be representative of the overall population of the parish.

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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open spaces between settlements (and the A3 corridor) should play a greater role in providing the bigger, better and more joined-up habitats that are desperately needed for wildlife connectivity; there should be no development between Buriton, Weston and Petersfield which would undermine the open nature of these gaps so that the rural character and the setting and identity of each of the settlements is also retained. • The settlements should become darker in this important pinch-point area in the International Dark Skies Reserve. The dark skies are an asset to be valued and protected. The Dark Skies status should be preserved by encouraging new development to incorporate appropriate measures and improvements to existing stock. All new development should be required to have low transmittance glazing (the current policies are not strong enough). External lighting should also be avoided with any that is necessary being mitigated to maximum effect. This issue is particularly relevant in this parish because if the dark sky quality in this narrow pinch-point area is eroded, the International Dark Skies Reserve status would be lost for the entire National Park. • More people with connections to the parish should be able to rent the existing affordable homes in the village. This is not proving to be easy with the latest affordable homes (being built in 2023) and the Planning Authority should work with the Housing Authorities in the National Park to change this situation. The Hampshire Home Choice housing register shows a very small number of people in need of accommodation with a local connection to Buriton and, with 61 Housing Association properties in the village, there is regular availability. This proportion of affordable homes (27% of all homes in the village; 18% of all the houses in the parish) is a relatively high proportion compared with most other rural communities in the district. However, the Parish Council has discovered that if families with connections to the parish are already 'adequately housed' in Housing Association homes elsewhere (eg. in Petersfield) then they are not eligible to be considered for any of the new affordable homes being built in the village. This does not seem fair and it provides no incentive for villages to seek or accept new development if local families are unlikely to benefit from the affordable homes provided.

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	No further development is required in this review of the Local Plan: the construction of ten new houses on the greenfield Local Plan site is yet to be completed and this will provide an adequate amount of new homes for the foreseeable future. The designation of this current site and the construction period were both controversial in the village and we want to ensure that there is adequate time for these new households to be fully integrated into the community. It was very disappointing that the 'active travel' footpath link along Greenway Lane (which had been included in the current Local Plan) was not delivered as part of the grant of planning permission. It is also feared that parking problems will be exacerbated by the new homes and this must be assessed thoroughly before any other development is considered in later stages of the Local Plan period.
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	None have been identified. The SDNPA's Settlement Context Study for Buriton shows that the village is surrounded and tightly constrained by areas important for biodiversity and cultural and landscape character. The village is a small, historic, nucleated settlement where growth has taken place organically over long periods of time. This character, which is identified as one of the seven Special Qualities of this National Park, could easily be lost if inappropriate development is allowed to take place

Information required	Response
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the Local Green Spaces designated in the current Local Plan are important and all the Conservation Area (including spaces within it) also need ongoing protection. The status of these designations should be retained. The Settlement Policy Boundary (which was redrawn less than five years ago as part of the current Local Plan) is well drawn and should protect areas beyond from inappropriate uses. The SDNPA's Settlement Context Study (SCS) shows that the village is surrounded and tightly constrained by areas important for biodiversity and cultural and landscape character. The SDNPA's 2020 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) highlights the very sensitive land just north of the scarp slope of the Downs (Landscape Character Area K2). It explains that the settlement pattern consists of nucleated villages at the scarp foot, with an extremely low level of dispersed settlement in-between (scattered farms and sunken lanes) which leads to a strong sense of rural tranquillity. It stresses that pressure for infill and expansion of small medieval settlements (such as Buriton) could adversely change the characteristic settlement pattern and landscape in this part of the National Park. Planning officers need to take account of these SCS and LCA assessments and respect them in policies and decision making. <p>No map is provided as all these areas are already identified by SDNPA but a map could be produced if absolutely essential.</p>

Homes

Information required	Response
<p>What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?</p>	<p>As explained above, no more homes are required in this review of the Local Plan: the construction of ten new houses on a greenfield site is yet to be completed and this will provide an adequate amount of new homes for the foreseeable future whilst these new households become integrated into the community.</p>
<p>What size of home is needed locally?</p>	<p>Not applicable at this time.</p>
<p>Any other requirements?</p>	<p>Not applicable at this time. Whilst the SDNPA's medium dispersed growth strategy may still be appropriate, it would be logical to explore other locations (including SD25 villages without an SD26 allocation in the current plan and edge-of-settlement opportunities at places like Newhaven, Seaford, Bishops Waltham, Liphook etc) before adding yet more development to small, historic, nucleated settlements like Buriton.</p>

Design

Information Required	Response
<p>Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation Area (including spaces within it) and its setting are particularly important. The three fingers of Open Space highlighted in the Village Design Statement SPD are also particularly important, helping to provide a backdrop to the Hanger slopes of the Downs and helping to bring the countryside into the village. The SDNPA's 2020 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) supports the evidence of the VDS SPD, highlighting the very sensitive land just north of the scarp slope (Landscape Character

Information Required	Response
	<p>Area K2) and the settlement pattern which has evolved organically over the years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The countryside gaps between the villages (including all the gaps to Petersfield and to the A3 corridor) are particularly important to retaining the rural character and setting of the communities and so there should be no development between Buriton, Weston and Petersfield which would undermine the open nature of these gaps. • The local settlement pattern contributes to a number of the National Park's 'Special Qualities' (including 'distinctive villages and communities with real pride in their area') and care should be taken to retain settlement character and not to erode important open spaces. • The parish lies in an important pinch-point area in the International Dark Skies Reserve and hosts a Dark Skies Discovery Site. Every new development should therefore be required to have low transmittance glazing (the current policies are not strong enough). External lighting should also be avoided with any that is necessary being mitigated to maximum effect.
<p>Particular features of buildings of local character</p>	<p>The community has spent a very considerable amount of time producing and regularly updating a detailed Village Design Statement (including a Local Landscape Character Assessment) which has been adopted by SDNPA as a Supplementary Planning Document. It is not possible to reduce that to the limit of 100 words for this pro-forma. The full VDS (with its appendices) can be accessed via this hyper-link: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-planning/village-design-statements/.</p>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buriton is a Pollinator Pilot Parish for Hampshire County Council as well as being part of the SDNPA's Re-Naturing, Bee Lines and Trees for the Downs projects. This involvement of residents is providing relevant lessons about the importance of improving ecological networks. • As well as enhancing conditions within settlements, it is clear that the open spaces between settlements (and the A3 corridor) can play a greater role in providing the bigger, better and more joined-up habitats that are desperately needed. • There is already some promising liaison with Network Rail about its corridor but more cooperation is needed with the county highway authority about roadside verges. • The SDNPA's Settlement Context Study for Buriton identifies a number of green corridors and there are opportunities to enhance and improve these with more hedging, buffer areas and policy protection • Planning policies need to control any further development beyond Settlement Policy boundaries so that adverse effects on the natural environment are minimised. • There should be better incentives for farmers to expand their nature-friendly initiatives. • The ecological condition of Buriton Pond is being questioned. • Another area which has been identified as a possible wildlife corridor is the route of the Hangers Way along the local valley known as The Links. • A number of the Local Green Spaces can also play better roles in a Green Network Corridor Strategy.

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to retain the Nest Hotel and the Five Bells pub. Both are Assets of Community Value and improvements to Local Plan Policies SD23 & SD43 (Appendix 3) should aim to retain these assets where their need is clearly demonstrated. • Perhaps pop-up shops could be provided in these facilities. • These businesses assist many visitors to the National Park including those on the long-distance routes through the parish including the South Downs Way, the Hangers Way and the Shipwrights Way. • Other business uses and opportunities (most particularly in the Buriton Business Park) should also be protected.

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green spaces (big and small) should be kept and enhanced. • The Parish Council is already devoting parts of its Recreation Ground to nature in SDNPA's Re-naturing project and St Mary's church caters for wildlife in its churchyard and cemetery. • There are also important Nature Reserves including Buriton Chalk Pits, Coulters Dean and Butser Hill as well as Queen Elizabeth Country Park. • All the Local Green Spaces designated in the current Local Plan (LGS69, 71, 72, 82, 84, 92 & 93) play important roles for nature, as well as meeting other LGS criteria, and must be retained. • SDNPA should reconsider all the other LGSs submitted (81, 86, 88 & 89) because they also play important roles for nature. • The public realm has been enhanced in the Hamilton-Baillie traffic scheme with de-cluttering and removal of signage but more can be done to enhance roadside verges for wildlife and wildflowers. • Other changes during the Local Plan period should encourage attention to the village pond (by EHDC) and appropriate restoration of the large Butser Hill Quarry Site by SDNPA.

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel routes to help people walk or cycle between Buriton and Petersfield need enforcement and improvements in the Petersfield area, including the Causeway. • A new path along Greenway Lane (included in the last Local Plan but not implemented) is required for active travel, safety, access to public transport services and amenity benefits. • Community buildings need energy efficiency and renewable energy enhancements which the Parish Council is exploring. • A site and proposals for a Community Orchard were identified in the Buriton Parish Plan. • To help with active travel, Buriton School should re-visit its School Travel Plan to address volumes of traffic and parking.

FINALISING YOUR SUBMISSION

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

- **You have completed the details in section 1, 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.
Information required	Response
Print Name	
Date	

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