

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.

I. Your Details

Information Required	Response
Contact name	██████████
Town or Parish Council	Cheriton Parish council
Main contact address	██
Main contact telephone number	██████████
Main contact email	████████████████████
<p>Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS</p>	<p>October 2016- Parish Plan Questionnaire to every household September 2017- Play Area Consultation event June 2018- Public Works Loan Board referendum February 2020- Traffic Consultation event May/ June 2022- Pedestrian Survey September 2023-Public meeting to discuss the draft Parish Priorities Statement Cheriton Parish Council web page for comment Survey of children at the village school, September 2023.</p>

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.

<p>We wish that Cheriton remains a quintessential quiet village maintaining the Conservation Area, dark skies, River Itchen and associated SSSIs, the Church, village hall, pre-school, primary school, local pub, local shop, bus service, the network of local pathways, the agricultural heritage and the eclectic housing stock.</p> <p>We support the extension of the Conservation Area to include the whole village.</p> <p>We see the opportunity for a small amount of brown field development within the village that will be in keeping with the existing housing design, but this must be affordable, allowing the choice for families of residents to remain in the village. We would like to see the development area allocated to Cheriton in the neighbouring parish of Kilmeston (Local Plan allocation Policy SD63), sympathetically developed maintaining good design and affordability principles in addition to robust environmental safeguards owing to the proximity to the source of the river Itchen and a traffic plan that reduced overall traffic risks on the A272 and surrounding roads.</p> <p>Traffic is the main issue facing the village with many vehicle movements. We see a reduced use of the Cheriton roads by appropriate traffic calming and speed restrictions and a reduction of the danger to pedestrians, animals and non-mechanised transport users throughout the village with a particular emphasis of risk reduction at the identified points of high risk. We would like Cheriton not to be a through route and that vehicles will be led away from the village by adequate road signage.</p>

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
<p>What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?</p>	<p>Cheriton has been quite well developed over the last seventy or so years. It is village of three parts; the centre of the village around the church and the River Itchen/ Cheriton Stream is a conservation area with an eclectic collection of listed properties, some from C16th, C17th and various other eras (e.g. Victorian, Edwardian, etc.) and styles up to recent, it also features housing areas originally developed by the local authority at The Pastures and The Goodens, and more recently, the Freeman’s Yard development to the east of the village centre, included several housing association homes. North End, which is connected to the main Cheriton Village by the Alresford Road and the Millenium Footpath, has several listed properties from C17th and C18th; it also features a number of rented agricultural dwellings along Badshear/ North End Lane. New Cheriton, to the south of the village, towards Hinton Marsh, is linked to the village by B3046 and some footpaths; it has development along the B3046 of varying ages and listing status and two cul-de-sac developments from the 1960s at Markall and Raebarn Closes. The Cheriton Parish also extends along the A272, but this is a busy road and not suitable for new housing development.</p>

Information required	Response
	<p>There is little room for further development within Cheriton, although there are some brownfield and infill sites that could be considered for appropriate developments. An area in Hinton Marsh has been identified for development, attributed to Cheriton (Allocation Policy SD63).</p> <p>The village is surrounded by farmland and has several water meadows which are not suitable for development.</p> <p>The village green is a central feature of Cheriton and adds to the peace and tranquillity of this quintessentially southern English village.</p>
<p>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</p>	<p>The allocation of development land on the border of Cheriton at Hinton Marsh may be appropriate, although this is not supported by Kilmeston Parish Council. Suitability of this site and the proposed development will require stringent environmental safeguards as it is close to the source of the river Itchen; additionally, traffic management and egress on to the A272, and other roads, will require careful consideration to ensure that the development does not increase the, already high, risks owing to traffic. There are some brownfield and infill sites within Cheriton that may be appropriate for development; preference should be given to affordable housing however.</p>
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<p>The village green, recreation ground and other designated “Green Spaces”, the river areas and water meadows and the numerous footpaths around the village are an essential feature of the village and its attraction to residents and visitors; these should always remain uninterrupted. Litter and dogs mess can be an issue and we hope for a more responsible attitude to such from residents, visitors and dog owners.</p> <p>The roads through the village are often used as “rat runs”, at speed; protection of the residents (children, elderly people, animals, etc.) and visitors, limiting access to the village at speed and by size (excluding vehicles necessary to maintain the local farming community) would enhance the quality of experience of being in Cheriton.</p> <p>Traffic management, vehicle speed and vehicle sizes are of material concern to the residents of Cheriton and, in parallel, with development and protection within the village these problems must be addressed or the quality of the overall experience of Cheriton will be reduced, and the risk of injuries increased.</p>

Information required	Response

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	A small number of affordable houses and retirement accommodation. Existing Local Plan policy SD63 allocates land for between 12 to 15 dwellings of un-specified size at Hinton Marsh which is described in the Local Plan as being in Cheriton, but this site is actually in the adjoining parish of Kilmeston and is not in our parish.
What size of home is needed locally?	1 and 2 bed houses with off-street parking and potential for small office accommodation to facilitate WFH and hybrid- working. 1 and 2 bed accommodation for older local residents who could down-size and remain in the Parish while freeing-up existing larger properties for families.
Any other requirements?	We are off the gas grid so heating should be by electric and/or oil and/or LPG and/or wood-burners and/or heat pumps, subject to Building Regulations requirements.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	The character of homes in the conservation area, particularly the variety of architectural styles.
Particular features of buildings of local character	Roofs currently consist of thatch, slates or clay tiles with traditional clay chimney pots which should be used in any new development. Solar panels, if installed on roofs, should not be visible from neighbouring properties, public roads or footpaths in the conservation area. Noise reduction of air source heat pumps would also be a feature of good design.

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p>Being very close to the source of the river Itchen, the river and its tributary, the Cheriton Stream, pass through the village. These have SSSI status as does some land in the village. The river also has SAC status. We wish these to be retained and improved to protect the river quality and its fauna and flora.</p> <p>The parish council supports the South Downs Local Plan policies for relative tranquillity (SD7) and dark night skies (SD8) as these support the special qualities of the National Park.</p> <p>The National Trail, the South Downs Way, passes through the parish as do two other well-known walks, the Itchen Way and the Wayfarers' Walk which runs for 70 miles from Emsworth to Inkpen Beacon. There is also a network of other countryside walks within the parish, and all are regularly used including by walking groups and ramblers. Most of these are maintained by the Cheriton Conservation Volunteers Group which is sponsored by the Parish Council and led by a Parish Councillor. These same volunteers also look after the river Itchen and the Cheriton Stream and the riverbanks have been planted with wild flowers. This conservation work is also important in helping to prevent flooding of properties within the village.</p> <p>Activities in the adjoining parish to the west, including large-scale events such as music festivals attended by almost 70,000 people, cause inconvenience and annoyance to some of our residents. They might also be causing harm to the wildlife within the zone of influence, included in which is our parish, because birds and animals do not respect parish boundaries and noise and light pollution travel a long way. We expect the planning and licensing authorities to give due weight to this when determining planning and licensing applications.</p>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<p>We recognise and support the current main employment opportunities of, The Flower Pots Inn and Brewery, agriculture, tourism, home/hybrid workers, the village shop and school.</p> <p>The need for young people to work at the Flower Pots, agriculture and in tourism drives a requirement to make the village attractive</p>

Information Required	Response
	<p>to young families. This includes public transport, Schooling and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Agriculture and tourism require a road and public transport network which suits their needs.</p> <p>Home and hybrid workers must have fast reliable broadband, throughout the parish.</p> <p>Tourism is dependent on maintaining the tranquil and attractive village setting, especially the conservation area, River Itchen and rural environment.</p> <p>We will remain committed to looking at future requirements for work, recognising that 65% of the jobs today's school children will do, don't exist today.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p>	<p>Cheriton Parish lies in the South Downs National Park and the centre of the parish is a conservation area. We would like to extend this to cover the whole village There is a desire to protect the open spaces that are owned by the Parish Council, the Diocese of Winchester and the residents of the Freemans Yard development.</p> <p>The open spaces are for recreation and enjoyment by the parishioners of the village and also visitors. The largest is an area known as the Recreation Ground which is used for tennis, cricket, car parking, a children's playground, and other activities. The survey from the village school also highlighted a desire for more facilities at the recreation ground (eg football goal, zip wire, more adventurous equipment); the Parish Council supports these aims. The other open spaces are the village green, the Millennium path, and areas along the River Itchen in the centre of the village.</p> <p>It is the intention to protect and maintain the said open spaces in perpetuity and to prevent development on them.</p>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p>	<p>Travel/ roads/ public transport</p> <p>Residents and visitors wish to walk and cycle within the village. Currently this is dangerous because the roads are busy, traffic is too fast, and drivers do not take enough care. A high level of HGV movements through the village adds to problems. Reducing the growing impact of traffic in our village is one of our highest priorities. Parking for large events and the impact of visitor parking is a problem which needs appropriate management.</p>

Information Required	Response
	<p>Ensuring access to facilities and services in our neighbouring towns through public transport is essential for younger residents and those who are not able to drive.</p> <p>The current bus service (to Winchester and Petersfield) is an important amenity for Cheriton residents.</p> <p>Residents support the South Downs National Park’s policy about protecting Dark Skies and therefore we do not want street lighting.</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Mobile phone reception is currently patchy within the village and access to reliable fast broadband is also dependent on where you live. Residents, businesses, and service providers rely on both, and it is essential that rural communities enjoy a comparable service with larger settlements in the roll out of communication services.</p> <p>Community Services</p> <p>The shop/ post office is highly valued by the community (including the children attending the village school who value the ice cream sales) for its commercial and social functions. The village pub/brewery is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. We are fortunate to have a primary school and pre-school for younger children. The bus service enables older students to access secondary school and college. The rector for the six churches in our local benefice is based in Cheriton. As a community we view these services as integral to village life and would wish to protect them in the future.</p> <p>The community have purchased the village hall which hosts many village activities, and we are embarking on a programme of refurbishment.</p> <p>Utilities</p> <p>Properties in Cheriton are ‘off grid’. This means that they have septic tanks to manage wastewater. It is essential that residents are supported to ensure that tanks are well maintained to protect our SSI chalk stream.</p> <p>Many buildings currently also rely on off grid fuel sources such as LPG, oil or wood fired systems. As society transitions to heating systems which are less carbon intensive it is essential that consideration is given to ensuring that the power network is robust enough to cope and that any necessary improvements minimise impact on our natural landscape. Planning for provision of public electric charging points for vehicles also needs consideration. Many properties are listed and consideration for energy efficiency and insulation for such properties will be an important part of planning policy moving forward.</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.
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