

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 Development 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	[Redacted]
Town or Parish Council	Clapham Parish Council
Main contact address	[Redacted]
Main contact telephone number	[Redacted]
Main contact email	[Redacted]
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<p>Parish Council Meetings.</p> <p>Quarterly newsletter – hand-delivered to all commercial, non-commercial and residential premises.</p> <p>Survey - paper and online.</p> <p>Parish Council website – explanatory note and link to survey.</p> <p>Clapham and Patching Villages website.</p> <p>Facebook and WhatsApp groups.</p> <p>Parish Noticeboards in Clapham Common and on The Street.</p> <p>The Junction Café – noticeboard and paper copies of survey.</p> <p>Follow-up with the primary school and the care home to engage with potentially harder to reach/under-represented groups.</p> <p>Approximately 10% of the community has engaged in the preparation - the lower response rate may perhaps reflect previous contributions to and evidence from Clapham’s existing Neighbourhood Development Plan and 2022 Parish Design Statement.</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.

1. Development (on a proportionately limited scale) to meet local housing needs, sympathetic to its surroundings in terms of design, and eco-friendly.
<i>This change is required within the next 15 years to address local demand although delivery is dependent on suitable land becoming available.</i>
2. Improved connections, through enhanced travel options and better transport links.
3. Safer, traffic-free or traffic-calmed routes that encourage walking and cycling and connect local communities. Improved roads, specifically the A280 Long Furlong by Clapham, through initiatives that address speeding and cut traffic emissions.
<i>Changes 2 and 3 are required within the next 15 years to address increasing highways concerns including congestion, pollution and user safety, and to improve transport access. However, both depend on capital funding and also link to the plans of others, e.g. West Sussex County Council's Local Transport Plan 2022 -2036.</i>

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	<p>The consensus is for small-scale development in proportion to the size of the community. This is to meet local demand, and local connection criteria should therefore apply. See Clapham Neighbourhood Development Plan (CNDP) policy HD7.</p> <p>Development of land for some very limited and specific types of housing (see section on 'Homes').</p> <p>Replacement or re-purposing of existing buildings that become redundant.</p>
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	<p>Land identified for possible development, should it become available, at Travis Perkins Builders Yard, Clapham Common. See CNDP, policy HD3, (land for 30 homes).</p>
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	<p>Clapham Parish is generally felt to be well protected from excessive or inappropriate development through its Neighbourhood Development Plan (https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/CNDP-final-Dec-2015.pdf - adopted by SDNPA May 2016) and Parish Design Statement (https://www.claphamandpatching-westsussex.org.uk/_files/ugd/afb5ae_59859bbf38e449d8903a40dcc30d7a63.pdf - adopted November 2022), and thanks to its inclusion (in its entirety) within the South Downs National Park.</p> <p>Protection is further extended through its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Designated conservation area

Information required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recognised 'village envelope,' outside which no development is to be permitted ✓ Local Green Space allocation in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (Policy CFW4) for Clapham Recreation Ground, the former BMX track, and Church Field. ✓ The Parish Council's nomination for Land at Gravel Pit, Loves Corner, Clapham, BN12 6NX in response to the SDNPA's Call for Local Green Spaces in 2022. <p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan (Policy BT3) identifies the land currently occupied by the West Sussex Highways Depot as suitable for future use for light industrial units to provide much-needed employment opportunities.</p> <p>Retention of the village tea shop/café on the Recreation Ground is also important to residents.</p>

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	<p>Affordable Homes, in line with Clapham's Neighbourhood Development Plan, policy HD7 (which reflects the outcome of a 2014 Housing Needs Survey).</p> <p>Starter homes for those who have grown up in the parish so they can continue to live there.</p> <p>Smaller homes to enable elderly residents to downsize to more manageable properties within the parish.</p>
What size of home is needed locally?	<p>Starter or downsizing homes, small in number, suitably sized (mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom properties)</p>
Any other requirements?	<p>Any development should be sympathetic to its neighbouring properties and reflect Clapham's special qualities and characteristics (as outlined in the Parish Design Statement).</p> <p>Each property should have access to a private or shared green space.</p> <p>New buildings should incorporate energy efficient-options (e.g. solar panels, heat pumps) and have regard to the 'net zero water' building commitment.</p> <p>Sufficient onsite parking and electric vehicle charging points should be provided.</p> <p>Evidence is required that existing services (e.g. water supply) are sufficient to meet the development and that flood risk is minimised.</p> <p>Any housing development should be supported by improved access to dentists and doctors. Residents identify current provision as being insufficient to meet existing demand, given pressure from the significant level of development in neighbouring parishes.</p>

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<p>A small rural parish wholly within the South Downs National Park, near Worthing, Clapham offers an eclectic, yet harmonious, mix of housing types and tenures, with listed buildings alongside more recent housing. It has a thriving primary school and community tea shop/café, together with a care home, commercial premises and active business park. These, combined with the setting among 400 acres of woodland, provide the distinctive character and rural charm so important to the local community.</p> <p>Clapham's 2015 Neighbourhood Development Plan and its 2022 Parish Design Statement comprehensively identify the particular characteristics that establish Clapham's local identity and sense of place.</p>
Particular features of buildings of local character	<p>These are spelt out in great detail in the online Appendix to the Parish Design Statement (https://www.claphamandpatching-westsussex.org.uk/_files/ugd/afb5ae_4abdf32e173d48cfb155db4fa2f48a0a.pdf).</p>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	<p>Environmentally friendly initiatives to restore and enhance existing habitats. For example, the former BMW track provides an opportunity for ReNaturing, possibly as part of a Beelines grant.</p> <p>Retain and increase hedgerows, woodlands and trees.</p>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Junction Café at the Recreation Ground. ✓ The school. (This was threatened with closure in 2019, and was saved through community support and the subsequent intervention of the Worthing Multi Academy Trust.) <p>Both were first registered as 'Assets of Community Value' in 2017 and the school's nomination was renewed in 2023.</p> <p>The residents' surveys carried out in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan identified a lack of employment opportunities (one reason why younger people are moving away). Accordingly the Plan identified a suitable area – the current site of the West Sussex Highways Depot, should it become available – for small light industrial/business units, which would increase the capacity of the existing small business park at Gosling Croft.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clapham Recreation Ground. ✓ St Mary The Virgin Church, including the churchyard. ✓ The network of public (and permissive) paths including those which cross Clapham Woods to the North and the woodland to the South of Clapham ('The Chestnuts' and 'The Harehams'). ✓ The former BMX track at Clapham Common

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i>	<p>Residents highlight a need for improved access to healthcare including dentists, doctors and other health and wellbeing opportunities.</p> <p>Faster broadband speeds and better reliability are also important, particularly for those working (or studying) from home.</p> <p>Off-street parking options are very restricted, limited primarily to private properties; on-street parking is hard to find, and provides a challenge for traffic, on our narrow roads.</p> <p>There is only one bridleway (i.e. cycle path) in the whole of Clapham Parish; this causes many issues, as cyclists try to access the South Downs using public footpaths. The landowner has so far been unwilling to upgrade some of the footpaths to create a viable network for cyclists – an Order might be required?</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/>

	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	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