

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	██████████ Parish Clerk
Town or Parish Council	Corhampton and Meonstoke PC
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>The PC held a drop-in session on Saturday 21st October for people to put forward their priorities and discuss with the PC members present action to date and options for building on it. This event was publicised across the villages and 8 people attended.</p> <p>In addition, views were solicited via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An article published in the local The Bridge magazine explaining what the purpose of the report is and the need for views. Details for the drop-in were published and an email was provided for those wishing to contact the PC directly. The magazine is provided free to 840 homes across four villages including both Corhampton and Meonstoke. - Notices on the two main villages WhatsApp groups – in addition to providing details for the drop-in and an email address to use for submissions, views were provided directly on the chat. The two groups have 188 members (General) and 100 members (Community Notice Board) and while there is duplication, the reach was further in that some households only have one contact on the chats. - A ‘parent’ WhatsApp group was contacted for their views on child specific areas. - There was also informal canvassing by council members. <p>There were five detailed emails and one phone call as a result of the above in addition to views collected from the meeting and WhatsApp groups. In total we had input from about one in ten households.</p> <p>The PPS was then drafted based on these comments. It was further discussed at the PC meeting on Wednesday 8th November to incorporate any additional views and to revise as needed prior to submission.</p> <p>A draft PPS was made available on the parish council website and publicised on the same channels noted above for further views/comments.</p>

Information Required	Response
	<p><i>It is also worth noting that there is a Corhampton and Meonstoke Village Design Statement which outlines much of the content requested below. In terms of planning, the area of Permitted Development has no further developable sites.</i></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>It was agreed that the natural beauty, cohesiveness and character of our villages needs protecting and enhancing for the benefit of those living and working here as well as those visiting the area. Community priorities broadly split into the following three areas:</p> <p>Protecting and enhancing our natural and community spaces for greater enjoyment by all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater accessibility to footpaths by replacing stiles with gates. • Dual use bins on village access points to the Meon Valley Trail (Stocks Lane and Chapel Road) to reduce the amount of litter left on the path, in particular through the villages where it is greatest. • Installation of a public toilet facility outside the Meon Hall both for use by users of the recreation ground and those visiting the SDNP or using the Meon Valley Trail or the South Downs Way. • The Meon Hall remains a centre for village and local community life – suggestions for enhancing it included expanding outdoor activities (table tennis, pétanque / boules or padel courts), providing toilets that can be accessed when the main hall is closed, electric charging points when the energy structure allows for it. • The Bucks Head in Meonstoke to remain an Asset of Community Value. The shop is also held as important but not viewed as necessary to be listed as an ACV. <p>Increased focus on protecting the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better recycling facilities, in particular for soft plastics (<i>due to come online locally in 2024</i>) • A bus service that allows for car free travel to and through the Meon Valley / SDNP • Planning that ensures greater biodiversity and continued protection for local natural resources, in particular for the Meon River which is a rare chalk stream. We want the SDNPA to take a robust approach to protecting our water courses and biodiversity. • Group purchasing scheme to support solar panel and heat pump purchasing and installation. • Noise pollution from motorcycles – and excessive speed - is viewed as a perennial issue along the A32 and some connecting roads. <p>Enhancing the sense of a safe, supportive and connected community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement along the A32 from De Port Heights to connect a substantial village neighbourhood with the pavements by the Meonstoke PO & Village Stores for safe access to the shop, church and pub. • Ensuring we have a good level of affordable housing and consider locations for further development both affordable and other.

- Electrical supply that allows for more consistent power to support electrical vehicle usage and, in future, public charging points.
- Fibre connectivity to all households to enable all areas of the community to benefit from that resource.
- Introducing a 20mph zone in the villages.
- Ensuring local farmers have the resources to protect machinery and prevent theft, in order to support those who feed our communities.
- More rural policing including possibly cameras in areas known for fly tipping which is an ongoing issue in rural communities.
- A village handyman to undertake small jobs in the community, funded through the precept if needed.

Of the above, the three areas that were raised the most frequently were:

For the near term (1-5 years)

- better recycling, particularly soft plastics
- a sensible local bus service for locals and SDNP visitors
- a pavement alongside the A32 linking De Port Heights area to the village centre more safely

Longer term priorities (5-15 year)

- a more stable and consistent electrical supply for the area
- the enhancement of the Meon Hall to keep it at the centre of village life
- a focus on options for additional affordable housing, and not limited to social rented units

There is a Village Design Statement for Corhampton & Meonstoke which highlights the desire to preserve the appearance of the village and the views to the open countryside. See Corhampton and Meonstoke Design Statement at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring-and-other-planning-documents/village-and-neighbourhood-design-statements>

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	<i>The focus was primarily on affordable housing schemes. There are no sites for this in the permitted development area so identifying suitable sites outside this would be key. The current bias in village affordable housing is toward social rented properties and it would be good to consider rebalancing with other affordable housing such as shared ownership, focussing on small/medium houses.</i>
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	<i>Areas that are alongside existing village development while still safeguarding the countryside feel as per the Village Design Statement.</i>

Information required	Response
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	<i>Areas such as the Meon River, Church Green, playgrounds, Meon Valley Trail and Meon Hall/Recreation Ground should be protected for broader public use and enjoyment.</i>

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	<i>Affordable housing was seen as the priority with consideration for other types in addition to social rented such as shared ownership.</i>
What size of home is needed locally?	<i>Smaller and mid-sized family homes such as 3-bedroom dwellings. Parking needs to be considered as well given the lack of public transport in the area and the therefore heavy reliance of families on multiple cars to access facilities in the region.</i>
Any other requirements?	<i>There is a requirement for both decent, reliable electric supply and adequate mobile/wifi communication infrastructure to support existing and new development. Renewable energy is valued if the necessary infrastructure is there to support it.</i>

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<i>The rural character and 'hidden' nature of the villages as well as the countryside views are important – see the Village Design Statement. The Meon River and water meadows are important both in terms of adding character and attractiveness to the area as well as for biodiversity and species preservation.</i>

Information Required	Response
Particular features of buildings of local character	<i>Architecturally, the parish buildings span over 1000 years and are therefore varied. Overall, colours are muted, red brick is a predominant building material as is flint for houses, agricultural buildings and boundary walls. Houses tend to be modest in scale without excessive decoration.</i>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	<i>The safeguarding and improvement of the Meon River, a rare chalk stream, is important. While there are no specific areas named beyond this, access to footpaths for elderly and less able was highlighted with the desire for gates rather than stiles wherever possible.</i>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided	<i>Three key businesses in the area are the Bucks Head pub which is an Asset of Community Value, the Meonstoke Post Office and Village Stores and the Meonstoke CoE pre-school. The preservation of these three businesses in particular was highlighted.</i>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i>	<i>The Church Green, St Andrews Meonstoke – nature recovery underway through habitat preservation for voles, etc. Recreation Ground/Playground Chapel Road playground – refurbishment/updating will be required</i>

Information Required	Response
	<i>Meon Valley Trail – need for some dual use rubbish bins to encourage correct disposal, particularly on the trail accessible from the villages.</i>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy	<p><i>A consistent and reliable electricity supply. Power surges make electric car charging difficult for some. The current infrastructure also can't support adding solar panels or an electric charging point at the Meon Hall. The move to electric cars, particularly in a natural countryside community, needs to be supported as does the move to more solar panels feeding into the grid.</i></p> <p><i>Broadband wifi connection for everyone in the villages to ensure connectivity to the internet/broader community and the ability for remote working. Currently insufficient.</i></p> <p><i>Robust mobile services, particularly as copper lines are removed and electric power remains unreliable. Isolation and safety risk for those who could end up with no 'land line' option in a power failure.</i></p> <p><i>Better recycling infrastructure. At present, soft plastics cannot be recycled which is a major issue for many in the villages. In theory, a facility should come on line in 2024 to address this but people are concerned recycling isn't a high enough priority.</i></p> <p><i>Parking – there is limited parking in the village. None at St Andrews Church, some at the Bucks Head parking lot and more at the Meon Hall. While manageable at present, this is in particular an issue for any new developments considered.</i></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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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	[REDACTED]
Date	14/11/2023

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