

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	[REDACTED]
Town or Parish Council	East Meon Parish Council
Main contact address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Main contact telephone number	[REDACTED]
Main contact email	[REDACTED]
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<p>Our approach to engagement has been at 3 levels: Raising awareness (Annual Parish Assembly, Meon Matters article); Broader engagement and understanding (dedicated email address, using the East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan findings and evidence base); More in-depth understanding / engagement (drop-in session, café presence). We have offered people the opportunity to identify their key issues & aspirations, have had more detailed discussion with them, gaining insights into the issues, sometimes challenging some of the inputs, resulting in a considered PPS based on the views of the wider community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3 key changes, outlined in the section ‘Vision for the future....’ were introduced at Annual Parish Assembly on 24 April 2023 (minutes available on Parish Council website (https://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk/community/east-meon-parish-council-15063/home/)). 60 people attended (6% of population) • To ensure broad engagement, an update on the PPS process, work to date, a list of each of the PPS sections and a request for input to all or some of these was made in the summer 2023 edition of the parish magazine, Meon Matters, delivered to almost 600 homes (100% of the population). • To achieve a deeper, 2-way engagement and understanding of residents’ views, the Parish Council held a drop-in session on 2 September 2023 (advertised on posters and the village Facebook page, - 1.4k members) in East Meon Village Hall (48 people attended) and set up a dedicated email address (eastmeonpriorities@gmail.com) for residents to send in ideas and inputs. There were 102 respondents (10% of the population, representing 20% of households) and 198 comments. • Input was received from a representative range of residents e.g. farmers (farming is a key employer for East Meon), people in the full range of housing-types, the East Meon Nature Group, families established and new to the village etc.

Information Required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation boards were kept up for over 1 month in the Village Hall (VH) plus there was a Parish Council presence at the VH café on 3 occasions in September in order to reach an older audience in the village (Census 2021 shows that 36% of East Meon’s population is 60 or older) and to allow a deeper engagement with that group. • A draft of the PPS was then approved at the Parish Council meeting on 18th September 2023 and published on the Parish Council website, with a link on the village Facebook page, for further comment. 5 further contacts were received. Amendments were made, approved by Parish Councillors and the final version submitted to SDNPA. • We also used the existing evidence base and consultations for the East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan (EMNDP) 2016 – 2032. The Consultation Statement is at: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/east-meon-neighbourhood-plan/ 31% of the population voted for the Neighbourhood Plan. Other evidence (e.g. Housing Needs Assessment) available on request.

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.

East Meon is a sustainable village in the South Downs; our 16-year Neighbourhood Development Plan (EMNDP), produced just 6 years ago, offered the opportunity for our small village community to grow and help to ensure the future of our school, shop, village pubs and other assets. Feedback from our community is clear that further development in the parish should only be considered within the constraints of the natural environment, the existing infrastructure and by utilising the built-form already there. 12 of the new homes included in the NDP will start to be occupied in the coming weeks; the further 5 promised in the EMNDP are in the final stages of planning permission. These 2 new significant developments need to ‘bed in’ before any further development is considered; the new families need to be integrated into our community and the developments must establish themselves into the East Meon landscape. Small scale incremental growth through windfall development, with smaller dwellings for social rent, will be supported. Included is the remaining site in the EMNDP (Policy EMI4), 2 social-rent units on a brownfield site within the village. First and foremost, the Parish urgently needs to address the inadequate sewerage and drainage matters, safety relating to active travel in the village and protection of the important local habitats, particularly the River Meon...

- **Adapting to cope with the impacts of climate change - ensuring community resilience.** (Climate Action). The significant problem of an inadequate sewerage and drainage system in East Meon was included in the Neighbourhood Plan <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/east-meon-neighbourhood-plan/>. There has been no improvement since then and indeed subsequent events have included raw sewage coming up into **Workhouse Lane** causing the closure of allotments, the football pitch and entering the River Meon and residents' gardens, plus flooding causing backing up in toilets. The Parish Council is taking the lead to resolve this problem which will ultimately benefit the Park by protecting the environment. With increasing, significant rainfall events, we see this as an important action to improve the resilience of East Meon and its environment to the consequences of climate change. The Parish Council is engaging with Southern Water (<https://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk/community/east-meon-parish-council-15063/2023-minutes/>) and will continue to do so. As all sewage leaving East Meon does so from one pipe under Workhouse Lane, feedback from residents indicates a strong push back on any significant development until a fully tested solution to the sewerage overflow problem is implemented. This is consistent with the **South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (SDILCA)**, particularly guidance for landscape management, which frequently refers the need to minimise water pollution in chalk rivers, specifically mentioning the River Meon. See also (from September 2023) <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/21/treated-untreated-sewage-greatest-threat-river-biodiversity-study>
- **Improve safety for residents and visitors by introducing 20mph speed limits on some roads** (a National Park for All). This should be done consistent with the guidance in 'Roads in the South Downs', especially the concept of 'design speed', and also in the context that some of our roads are used by large farming vehicles due to the prevalence of farming in the parish. A number of East Meon's roads have no pavement, so are shared between pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorists. The eastern end of the High Street has no pavement, likewise the narrow Temple Lane which, feedback suggests, is heavily overused due to overdevelopment. Workhouse Lane, the road from the Village Car Park to the centre of the village is another example, which means that visitors to East Meon are often seen making way for vehicles - feedback suggests that this leads to some visitors parking in the village, causing problems on the roads there (see infrastructure section). Vehicle damage to utilities-covers can also be seen in Workhouse Lane. The SDILCA states that the valleys contain main access routes to the South Downs and are likely to be under pressure from increasing traffic volumes and increased numbers of visitors seeking recreational opportunities, causing erosion and altering the sense of tranquillity. Residents' feedback for this PPS demonstrates that the speed of traffic on some roads makes them wholly unsuitable and unsafe for people with disabilities, carers and parents with buggies, and large groups. Our October 2021 traffic study showed that about 1 in 7 drivers using the High Street were exceeding 35 mph (the speed limit is 30mph). <https://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk/community/east-meon-parish-council-15063/speed-restriction-signs/>
- **Improve biodiversity in and around the River Meon by achieving 'designated' status for the river in our parish to increase protection of this chalk stream, a rare and precious habitat and the highest rising chalk stream in the UK** (ReNature). As mentioned above, residents have watched sewage running into the River Meon during times of flooding and the Environment Agency has confirmed this. The River Meon is a chalk stream, fed almost entirely by springs rather than by rain, and it supports a unique ecology. The river forms a particularly distinctive cultural feature for the village as well as a growing value in improving biodiversity. As mentioned earlier, the SDILCA states that it is essential 'to monitor water quality in the Meon and seek to minimise nutrient run off/ water pollution resulting from intensive dairy farming' and referring to key issues for our landscape type, 'Chalk rivers are particularly sensitive to diffuse pollution from agriculture, affecting water quality and wetland

habitats. The correct implementation of existing and future legislation will have a major role in ensuring good water quality'. There are other references in the SDILCA to chalk river water quality. Working with the South Downs National Park, as per feedback, many of our residents would like to see the River Meon designated an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) to turbocharge and support the many excellent activities already taking place through various agencies (eg the Wild Trout Trust, Meon Valley Partnership, SDNPA etc.). <http://www.meonvalleypartnership.org.uk/river>) to improve and protect the river and allow it to support an even greater range of animals and plants and make it a stronger focal point for residents and visitors to the SDNP.

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>East Meon is already delivering on the additional 17 homes promised in its Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2032), across 2 sites (12 new homes + 5 new homes). (https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/east-meon-neighbourhood-plan/), with a further site for 2 dwellings still in the NDP. East Meon is a classic example of a village in the Chalk Valley, character E (SDILCA). The village has traditionally grown slowly and organically, reflecting the particularly sensitive nature of the settlement. As mentioned earlier, our community wants to see the EMNDP developments given the opportunity to integrate into the village. Any further development should be planned much later to allow the parish to grow in a way that respects the sensitive landscape and natural features (e.g. the River Meon). The village infrastructure has not kept up with recent development (sewerage, roads, transport etc.). The development the parish wants to see is in infrastructure, to reflect the growth that has occurred in the village. See 'Vision for the Future' and 'Infrastructure' sections. (Note that there have been 4 'windfall' homes built in the Parish since the NDP was adopted, a further 1 windfall home approved and 5 windfall homes in the planning application stage.)</p> <p>The sensitivities of development in and around East Meon are set out in the SDILCA, focusing on the sense of remoteness and rural tranquillity around the upper reaches of the Meon Valley (particularly around East Meon):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the remote rural character and associated dark skies around the upper reaches of the Meon Valley. • Maintain the nucleated form of villages and avoid extending linear development along roads. • Maintain the nucleated form of medieval villages, strung out along the edge of valley floor, each with a distinctive church tower or spire, and consistent palette of building materials. New development should not disrupt the existing settlement form and pattern. • Conserve the setting of the villages, with their medieval pattern of enclosures, sheltered below the rising downland and views to key features such as church towers/spires. <p>And most importantly, from key issues and trends (under the future change section):</p>

Information required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The valleys contain many small village settlements and their character could be eroded by incremental small-scale changes. <p>Regarding employment, a number of workplaces already exist within the village e.g. pubs, shop, school and an office. Outside the village, there are farms, the Sustainability Centre, a number of offices and business units and a recently approved barn conversion into a warehouse and business. There has been no mention by residents of increasing the number of these, but the number of existing business premises should not be reduced. Some small scale extensions that allow for WFH, or work from home businesses could be supported, but this incremental growth should not undermine the parish's rural character.</p> <p>The Village Hall (not owned or run by the Parish Council) is almost 50 years old. It needs updating to bring facilities, energy usage and flexibility in line with current community expectations.</p>
<p>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</p>	<p>East Meon is a special, unique place, a medieval nucleated village. If development is to occur, it should respect that settlement pattern and the East Meon Settlement Policy Boundary, which was developed with, and adopted by, the South Downs National Park 6 years ago as part of our Neighbourhood Development Plan. Development must respect the setting of the church, the views to it and conserve the setting of the settlement, not undermining the often historic edges. It is unlikely that further development around its edges will enhance the village and its environment. The village is growing as part of our Neighbourhood Plan; the community wants to ensure that growth is sustainable for the people and the historic nature of the East Meon, a nucleated settlement.</p> <p>Working with SDNPA, the Settlement Policy Boundary was recently expanded in order to incorporate 2 of the new Neighbourhood Plan development sites. We do not want to see the Settlement Policy boundary changed again, so soon after the NDP alignment with the SDNPA. EMNDP Policy EM2: The Settlement Policy Boundary is working well and is supported by the community.</p> <p>The Parish recognises the need for the village to grow, however the recent development in the village meets some of that demand, and demand should not drive the level of growth directly. Growth over the next 5 years could be met through creative and modern redevelopment of brownfield sites across the Parish, and further, sympathetic, windfall sites, intensifying development where appropriate without further greenfield sites eroding the already sensitive settlement edge. The SDNPA also recognises the opportunity for development on brownfield sites with the village, for example see section 5.2 of the SDNP's Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan (March 2015): https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/East-Meon-CAAMP-2015.pdf, which specifically mentions the area around the centre of the village (para 5.2).</p>
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<p>Again, it is crucial to consider the points expressed in the SDILCA i.e East Meon's nucleated settlement, the importance of protecting views of the church and the importance of the settlement edge. Maintaining the Settlement Policy Boundary is essential and EMNDP Policy EM2</p>

Information required	Response
	<p>(The Settlement Policy Boundary) and SDLP Policy SD25 (Development Strategy) are central to this. Growth outside this line should be exceptional, for example for essential countryside use.</p> <p>The SDILCA also demonstrates why the area around the East Meon Settlement Policy Boundary is sensitive: For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Conserve the historic field patterns of irregular enclosures around villages, which indicate survival of a late medieval landscape and provide time-depth which contributes to the sense of place.’ (SDILCA Broad management objectives, Landscape Character Area E) • ‘Maintain the nucleated form of medieval villages, strung out along the edge of valley floor, each with a distinctive church tower or spire, and consistent palette of building materials. New development should not disrupt the existing settlement form and pattern.’ (SDILCA guidance for integrating development in landscape character area E) • ‘Conserve the setting of the villages, with their medieval pattern of enclosures, sheltered below the rising downland and views to key features such as church towers/spires.’ (SDILCA guidance for integrating development in landscape character area E) <p>Leading on from our response to the previous section, many of our community have requested that the areas surrounding the village’s Settlement Policy Boundary are protected to preserve the special views in and out of East Meon. These views are referenced in the East Meon Neighbourhood Plan Policy EM5: Protection of Valued Views. Also, the South Downs Settlement Context Study Sensitivity Analysis for East Meon (East Meon SCS Context Analysis.pdf (southdowns.gov.uk)) clearly shows the cultural, landscape and natural sensitivities and constraints to expanding the Settlement Policy Boundary</p> <p>EMNDP Policy EM5 is generally working well, however in addition to the protected views covered by EM5, feedback to the PPS indicates that views of the Church, particularly from the south and east should also be protected, consistent, with comments from the SDILCA previously mentioned.</p> <p>A significant amount of consultation and alignment with residents’ views went in to allocating the Local Green Spaces (LGS) for protection via the Neighbourhood Plan. They are listed and shown on a map in Policy EM10: Local Green Spaces. The value and contribution the LGS make to supporting community wellbeing continues to be apparent and reflected in feedback. The LGS are critical not only in protecting areas within the village for people to enjoy, but also contribute to protecting the landscape, cultural and the settlement pattern.</p>

Homes

Information required	Response
<p>What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?</p>	<p>As per the East Meon Neighbourhood Plan, a mix of affordable and market homes.</p> <p>Our community was not impressed by the lack of social rented homes provided in the development on the site the South of Coombe Rd (see Neighbourhood Plan Policy EM16). The fact that this is due to a lack of registered providers willing to take on social rented homes on the site, raises the question how practicable it is to develop sites in rural areas. Some residents have suggested that the SDNPA imposes penalties on developers who renege on social housing promises.</p> <p>Provision of Affordable Shared Equity housing on the new Coombe Road EM16 is being offered to local residents first, so EMNDP Policy EM4: Allocation of Affordable Housing is meeting the Parish's needs.</p>
<p>What size of home is needed locally?</p>	<p>Consistent with the Housing Needs Assessment and Report (copy available on request) used as evidence for EMNDP Policy EM3: Size of Dwellings, recent community feedback indicates that smaller homes are still a priority.</p>
<p>Any other requirements?</p>	<p>East Meon is not on the gas grid, so new homes will need to be powered by an alternative source. We would like to see heat pumps, solar and other renewable technologies, along with appropriate insulation, used to heat any new homes. There are numerous green spaces in and around the settlements in the Parish (some owned by the Parish Council) which could be used for ground source heating for existing groups of houses. More work could be done to find specific examples.</p> <p>All new dwellings should have Electric Vehicle Charging Points.</p> <p>Parking is also a problem in all parts of the village, raised by a number of residents. While it is understood that the Parking SPD provides for a minimum level of parking for new dwellings, there needs also to be provision for e.g. visitors, tradespeople and deliveries.</p>

Design

Information Required	Response
<p>Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?</p>	<p>The East Meon Conservation Area is particularly important in setting the character of the village, supported by feedback from the community. It is described in detail in the SDNP's Character Appraisal and Management Plan (March 2015): https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/East-Meon-CAAMP-2015.pdf. This includes a map of the Conservation Area which extends from Workhouse Lane to the west and the Court House to the North to the end of the High Street and Frogmore to the east. The range of buildings, including timber framed, late 17th/18th century brick buildings, thatched roofs and later tiled roofs and flint walls all contribute to the core of what is often described as a 'beautiful village'.</p> <p>As one resident commented, 'The High Street is precious, as is Park Hill'.</p> <p>As mentioned before, the area around the Settlement Policy Boundary is also important to our community and the previously mentioned SCS Context Analysis East Meon SCS Context Analysis.pdf (southdowns.gov.uk) underpins this. The historic, cultural and landscape character areas around the village (see SDILCA references earlier) are important to maintain the unique qualities of East Meon.</p> <p>Community feedback also highlights the importance of views into the Conservation Area, especially the church, allowing visitors to the National Park to view the area holistically. Particular reference was made to views of the Conservation Area from Park Hill in the north and Small Down, Salt Hill and some public footpaths to the south, consistent with the SCS Context Analysis mentioned earlier and the EMNDP's Policy EM6.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan consultation indicated that the key gateways into the village should be protected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coombe Road, by 40 Acres (nature area), and further on, approaching the school (sunken lane) • The Hyde/Church Lane/West Meon Road (Church, Court House and other interesting architecture) • Clanfield Road/High Street (sunken lane) <p>The gap which helps to define the separate settlements of East Meon and Frogmore is considered important, as highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Particular features of buildings of local character</p>	<p>The church, and views to it from around the settlement. Any development on the edge of the settlement has the potential to affect this from public right of way network.</p> <p>See The East Meon Neighbourhood Plan Policies EM6 to EM9 for Design requirements. These Policies are working well and are often</p>

Information Required	Response
	<p>referred to when discussing potential planning applications with residents as well as in pre-applications, applications and decisions.</p> <p>The East Meon Pattern Book, part of the evidence base and supporting documentation for the Neighbourhood Plan, describes in some detail the features of buildings in many of the streets that make up the Conservation Area (and some of those outside it). It can be found here: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2.EAST-MEON-Pattern-Book-compressed.pdf</p> <p>As mentioned earlier, the range of mostly traditional materials and boundary treatments used for buildings within the Conservation Area is what makes it an interesting and characterful part of East Meon. The Pattern Book contains a huge amount of detail which cannot reasonably be summarised here.</p>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p>Our River Meon Priority in section I is designed to build upon the excellent work already underway to take advantage of the uniqueness of this chalk stream, to widen the number of species seen there and to increase the enjoyment of residents and visitors of this special asset. Continuing to protect and improve the River Meon in our parish will have benefits beyond East Meon, in ecosystems along the river. This has significant support among residents. Importantly, as mentioned earlier, the SDILCA covers extensively the sensitivity of the River Meon and the need to protect and improve this chalk river for biodiversity and as a cultural focus of our village.</p> <p>Also mentioned in feedback is improving the River Meon as an amenity by extending walking opportunities along its length, especially west of the village.</p> <p>The very active East Meon Nature Group's Tree Working Group, with financial and technical support from SDNP, planted 150 metres of nature hedging, and some fruit trees, in winter 22/23 and have plans to do so around the football pitch to join up and improve existing hedges to form a nature corridor.</p> <p>With higher summer temperatures more likely, there will be a need to have tree canopies in areas within or close to the village, so that people without gardens or who are outside can find shade when needed. We would like financial and technical support from SDNPA to help identify and plant such areas.</p> <p>There was also support for a community orchard or woodland planted somewhere on the edge of the village and turning some of our local green spaces into wildflower meadows.</p>

Information Required	Response
	Local farmers and landowners are crucial in supporting renaturing efforts; feedback indicates that residents expect to see effective liaison between them, local authorities, the SDNP and the Parish Council.

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<p>Farming and diversified businesses on farms are important employers in the Parish. We look forward to seeing continued farming growth and diversification plans for farms, including Whole Estate Plans, where they are being written.</p> <p>The school and the nursery (in the Village Hall) are important to the village.</p> <p>The 2 pubs in the village are Assets of Community Value.</p> <p>The Forge is unique in that it is an office within the Settlement Policy Boundary.</p> <p>The presence of a shop is vital to the community, especially as it saves car journeys to Petersfield and because the village is poorly served by public transport.</p> <p>ONS Census 2021 data indicates that East Meon has 47.7% of employed people working from home (versus 31.5% average for England). These numbers must be treated carefully for Covid reasons, but seem to indicate that East Meon has a higher proportion than the average. Nevertheless, with more people working from home, there could be less need for private cars and more need for sustainable transport links to main towns.</p> <p>Feedback has suggested that tourism and entrepreneurial (micro-business) initiatives could be better supported by planning systems and SDNPA – there is a need to encourage a broader range of ideas.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</p>	<p>See the East Meon Neighbourhood Plan Policy EM10 for a list of Local Green Spaces. This is a strong policy which works well and continues to be well supported by the community, as evidenced by feedback to the PPS. A detailed consultation took place to identify and confirm these for the EMNDP.</p> <p>To improve some of the larger spaces e.g. the Recreation Ground and the Green, the margins not now being mowed and new hedges are being planted (see earlier). A similar approach will be taken with the Football Pitch. The Parish Council is also leading in continuing to make some of our Local Green Spaces more accessible e.g. by widening footpaths, removing difficult steps etc., using CIL money to do so.</p> <p>Finding land for a community orchard to also land to plant trees to provide a canopy for shade as temperatures increase were also mentioned as opportunities.</p> <p>The Sustainability Centre is a significant green space within the parish and is active in nature recovery on its site.</p> <p>The cricket pitch, south of White Lodge, Mercury Lane is an Asset of Community Value and is used by a local cricket team.</p>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</p>	<p>Examples mentioned by residents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewerage & drainage improvements are essential for residents in Workhouse Lane plus surrounds, including the football pitch and allotments (see earlier). EMNDP Policies EM12: Sewerage and Drainage and Policy EM13: Surface water Management were written to address this, but feedback indicates that implementation of these needs to be strengthened. • Improvement in roads is required and certainly no development which increases usage of certain roads. Workhouse Lane and Temple Lane were specifically mentioned by residents (see earlier), with both having no pavements, more traffic using them than they can safely cope with, unsafe conditions for pedestrians & cyclists and damage being caused to the roads and to properties.

Information Required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic calming measures are required to slow vehicles passing through the village (see 20mph speed limit action in section 1) and to prioritise pedestrians, while allowing access for large farming vehicles which are part of the daily traffic movements. This needs to be done consistently with the guidelines in 'Roads in the South Downs'. • Better management and appropriate use of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) to ensure that their condition does not exclude use by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. A cross-parish residents' group and the Parish Council are active with SDNPA and Hampshire County Council to identify sustainable solutions to the degradation of BOATs by motorised leisure vehicles, motor bikes and cars. See recent Parish Council minutes https://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk/community/east-meon-parish-council-15063/2023-minutes/ • More frequent transport services to Petersfield and other centres. Recently the bus company has reduced the local bus service again (https://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk/community/east-meon-parish-council-15063/home). The possibility of a village minibus was proposed by one resident. • Provision of active travel links was a common theme in feedback, e.g. linking up BOATs to provide a cycleway into Petersfield, provision of a cycle route or lane from East Meon to Langrish and better cycling provision generally. This could be possible by using the existing Public Right of Way (or BOATs) network and enhancing / changing priority for users or even through support by private landowners. Some village roads (e.g. Temple Lane and Workhouse Lane) are considered to be unsafe for cyclists. • Most of East Meon's homes are dependent upon polluting technologies for their heating and energy, so new solutions are required. The Parish Council objected to the use of LPG to heat homes on one of its NDP sites, but to no avail. One resident has suggested a communal ground source heat pump, using the village green, for houses on The Green • Public Electric Vehicle Charging points for residents and visitors; there are currently none in the village. • As mentioned earlier, consistent with 'Roads in the South Downs', we do not wish to see yellow lines edging the roads in the centre of our village, but need ensure better use of the current parking arrangements for visitors, to support the visitor economy, but reduce the impact on residents.

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	20 th October 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