

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.

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.

The three key priorities for your parish in the next 15 years
<p>1) Manage the impact of developments already planned in, and adjacent to, our Parish. The largest impact on our parish for at least a human lifetime will be the build-out of the planned development at the former Syngenta site. Given that, as of October 2023, a phased delivery plan, containing ten phases, has only just been agreed with the LPA, this built-out could easily take a decade or more to complete, especially when CIL-funded infrastructure improvements are taken into consideration. Further phased development at the former KEVII Hospital site will have additional impacts on our Parish infrastructure, the impacts of which will also need to be managed.</p> <p>2) Protect to the fullest extent possible, against additional, unplanned, medium/large-scale development in or near our Parish. Although the agreed Syngenta development has not yielded the levels of affordable housing to which the FNP aspired, we have no appetite to plan for significantly more new housing.</p> <p>3) Encourage improvements in the quality of the existing housing stock in terms of improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of housing and other infrastructure – to reduce the ‘cost of living’, particularly for those on low/fixed incomes.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>Max 100 words</i></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>Only those new homes already in the FNP (for reasons given above). We would wish to continue to support existing employment and community facilities, including: Existing shops and businesses in the village, Village Hall, Fernhurst Hub, Fernhurst Recreation Ground, Fernhurst Club, numerous local clubs and societies.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<p>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</p>	<p>None, besides those already in the FNP.</p>
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<p>Everywhere else outside the established settlement area.</p>

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	Per our existing FNP. Max 100 words
What size of home is needed locally?	Per our existing FNP. Max 50 words
Any other requirements?	The greatest benefit is believed to come from improvements to existing housing stock and transport infrastructure. Max 100 words

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	Per our existing FNP and the Fernhurst and Kingsley Green Conservation Area Management Plans Max 100 words
Particular features of buildings of local character	Per our existing FNP, the Fernhurst and Kingsley Green Conservation Area Management Plans, and the Fernhurst Village Design Statement. In addition, the Fernhurst Society maintains a list of non-designated local assets of historical/aesthetic importance. Max 100 words

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	We would encourage local landowners to engage with the SDNP directly in schemes such as 'Bee Lines' etc. which aim to provide/improve wildlife corridors. Local people already manage small green spaces near the centre of the village in a wildlife-friendly way. FPC manages the land it owns on Van Common (a registered Open Access space) in a wildlife-sensitive way. Max 100 words

Jobs

Information Required	Response
Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided	<p>All existing places of employment (shops, pubs, restaurants etc.) in the Parish. The extent of homeworking in the parish is unknown, but considered to be significant.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks	<p>Fernhurst Village Green and Van Common, Fernhurst Recreation Ground, Crossfield Green, all land accessible via the extensive network of ProWs in the parish.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community building needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy	<p>We expect to receive significant CIL payments from the development at the former Syngenta Site, although the timing of these payments remains very uncertain. We hope to engage in further discussions with parishioners and SDNP as to the best use of these funds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</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 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 checked="" 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	20-OCT-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