

I. Your Details

Information Required	Response
Contact name	██████████
Town or Parish Council	Firle Parish Council
Main contact address	██████████████████████S
Main contact telephone number	██████████
Main contact email	██████████████████
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<p>The Parish Council (PC) worked with Firle Community Association (FCA) to develop a questionnaire to survey community views on a village plan.</p> <p>The questionnaire was disseminated online to all members of the FCA and via the village whats apps, Hard copies were available in the village shop and in the monthly village café gathering. Information on the survey and accessing the survey forms were given in the parish community magazine.</p> <p>We had 72 responses to the survey, which comprised 34% of the population. Of these, 94% of the respondents lived or worked in the village.</p> <p>Many of the survey findings reflected the outcome of previous village surveys undertaken by the Community Land Trust (on housing) and by the FCA (on village facilities and road safety).</p> <p>We used the survey results and associated comments to develop a draft Parish Priorities Statement (PPS). Feedback on the draft PPS was obtained by the PC and the steering committee of the FCA.</p> <p>The details of the survey and the final PPS were posted on the PC (https://firleparishcouncil.co.uk/) and FCA websites and the links to these disseminated to the community by email, social media and the parish magazine.</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.

We wish to retain the village character and community that make Firle such a wonderful place to live, work and visit. To do this we need to enable both young and elderly residents to remain in the village, to make much needed improvements in infrastructure, and to ensure both pedestrians and other users of non- motorised vehicles have safe access to the village and countryside.

We will:

- Continue to campaign for a small level of high-quality affordable housing in Firle village to allow young and elderly local people to remain in the village.
- Improve surface and sewage drainage so that residents can live safely in current and future climate conditions.
- Work to ensure that there are safe footpaths to access the school, village, and surrounding countryside, and increase the safety of village lanes and byways by discouraging further traffic use and promoting alternative transport.

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for 10-13 homes at affordable rents to allow for young people who have grown up in the village to continue to live and work in the community and establish a local business. In addition, older people once retired and on low pensions need access to affordable housing to retain their family and community connections. • In this respect, the proposed new housing at Berwick will not meet the needs of Firle villagers or be enough to provide the needs of the surrounding village communities. • There is also a requirement for workspaces to allow for the development of creative and business enterprises within the Firle community.
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments should be dispersed throughout the parish, with homes for the elderly located close to the village centre e.g. in the old estate yard.
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village community areas such as the recreation and playing fields, the school playing field, the allotments and Millenium wood, the church yard, and heritage areas such as the historic village centre and the walled gardens should all be protected from development. • Also we would not want to see development on the important green spaces such as woodland, Firle park, the coach road and areas between the village and South Downs.

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rented affordable houses for local people
What size of home is needed locally?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedroom homes, some with office space.
Any other requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They should be well insulated to allow for heat pumps and other alternative energy sources. EV charging of vehicles is a necessity.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The character of the village centre and eastern boundary is mainly comprised of late 17th and 18th century flint, brick and rendered cottages and the west of the village includes 19th century brick buildings around the school. It will be important for any new dwellings to be in keeping with the character of the existing buildings in these two areas. Key characteristics in the village centre are covered in the conservation area guide and include the street-focused orientation of the village centre with low brick and flint walls, small set backs, repetition of the Estate paint code, minimal porch detailing and minimal outdoor lighting. As a community we do not want to see more obviously contemporary architecture as is apparent in the design of the 1960s type housing in the west of the parish that is so out of character with the rest of the village. Other standardised contemporary details such as high timber fencing, low quality streetlights, badly designed and made signage, and poor window design details are also harmful to the conservation area and parish.
Particular features of buildings of local character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New buildings should use traditional Sussex clay tiles, with walls of red brick, or painted brick, or flint. Windows should be painted timber.

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are huge opportunities to seed more verges and field borders with wildflowers to support insect, bird and small mammal wildlife. Verges at the top of Bostal lane should be fenced off and protected from visitor cars who are not wanting to use the paid car park on the Bostal. • We would like to see more woodland planting in the parish to provide wildlife corridors to join up the existing patches of woodland.

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"> • We want to protect the village pub, shop, post office and school and ensure their success in the future. • Other businesses such as farming, the microbrewery, the bakery, and arts and crafts are an important part of the community and should be supported. • We want to encourage the provision of small workspaces to provide opportunities for new local businesses within the village

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have several open spaces such as the playground, the school and village playing fields, the allotments, the churchyard and spinney where seeding of wildflowers and planting of hedges is needed to make them more attractive to wildlife and people.

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to improve the poor surface and sewage drainage in many areas of the village. • We need improved insulation of many of the existing dwellings and access to renewable energy sources to move the community off fossil oil. • We need to create a footpath between the A27 junction and the school to encourage safe pedestrian access to the school and village. At present, school children and adults must walk down a dark muddy lane with no pavement and with poor visibility to the many drivers who use this sole access to the village. • We need to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph to improve pedestrian safety on lanes with no pavement.

Information Required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mobile and broadband signals are poor and need to be improved to support local businesses and working from home. • Parking spaces for residents is a problem, particularly where there is an influx of summer visitors. We wish to discourage visitor parking and traffic flow within the residential areas and encourage more frequent use of the additional temporary car park throughout the summer.

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.
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Information required	Response
Print Name	██████████
Date	18/12/2023

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