

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.

Information Required	Response
Contact name	[REDACTED]
Town or Parish Council	Heyshott 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>Consultation and engagement were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Village Hall residents meeting. 60 residents attended, were provided with a questionnaire (see Page 9) and contributed with ideas. 25% of all on the electoral roll. 2. The Heyshott village newsletter 3. Parish council website 4. Village WhatsApp – notice of village meeting 5. Village notice board <p>The following organisations were also consulted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Murray Downland Trust 7. Cobden Village Hall Committee 8. Playground Committee 9. Unicorn Pub 10. St James Parish Church

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><i>The three key priorities for your parish in the next 15 years</i></p> <p>Vision. To preserve and enhance the rural nature of the parish, for the benefit of residents, by ensuring and fostering a tranquil and healthy environment for all to enjoy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic control – safety of pedestrians, riders (horse/bike) and drivers. Implementation of a 30mph speed limit throughout the village (Heyshott Street and Hoyle Lane) and a 20mph limit at Bex Mill Bridge with clear signage and road markings. 2. Designation of the parish as a “quiet lanes” area 3. Well established Book-a-Bus service with clear links to the existing county bus service (Stagecoach) and continuation (and expansion) of school bus services.
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Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	<p>Any development must be affordable and in keeping with a rural village environment and made of materials that are similar to existing dwellings.</p> <p>Development should not be on “green field” land and any new homes should ideally be for ownership rather than rent. The focus should be to lower the demographic age of the community.</p> <p>Holiday lets are not considered appropriate for the parish.</p>
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	<p>There is little scope for development in this small village as there are no public transport links (rail or bus) and hence access to workplaces is restricted to car travel which has a detrimental environmental impact.</p>
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	<p>The parish of Heyshott is recognised as an area of natural beauty. In particular: Heyshott and Ambersham Commons is a registered SSSI and one of only a few lowland heath sites in West Sussex. It is rich in flora and fauna and is the only site in West Sussex which supports all 6 of the UK’s native reptile species. It has the largest population of breeding Nightjars in West Sussex.</p> <p>Heyshott Escarpment and Down is also a registered SSSI. This area of chalk grassland supports 13 species of orchid and breeding populations of Red Listed species such as Duke of Burgundy butterflies and Tree Pipits.</p> <p>The registered Village Green of Heyshott and the registered Common Land within Heyshott (which extends North of the Heyshott Down SSSI) are themselves also particularly rich in flora, with Chamomile growing in the sward of the village cricket ground.</p>

Information required	Response
	<p>The village pond adjoining the Village Green and the stream running through Bex Mill each support important bird populations including wintering Kingfishers.</p> <p>These areas all need continuing protection from development. Where development occurs this needs to be sympathetic and have no detrimental on the visual impact on the parish.</p> <p>All farmland, heathland and common land should be protected as they provide areas for recreation (walking, riding and cycling).</p> <p>It should be noted most of the parish lies within the Cowdray Estate and hence the Estate should be encouraged to maintain the rural and protected status.</p>

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	<p>One possibility is affordable homes for young families able to work (principally from home) to reduce the average age of the community.</p> <p>Currently the future of the former Canine Partners site is unknown. This might bring business or accommodation. Either or both should be in keeping with the parish's ambience.</p>
What size of home is needed locally?	3 bed family homes are probably the most appropriate.
Any other requirements?	New properties should be built to conform to zero energy usage. High insulation standards and built-in (in the roof) PV generation in accordance with planning regulations should be encouraged as should heat pumps and EV charging points.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<p>The Murray Downland Trust land (wildlife flora and fauna). This covers areas on the escarpment on the south side of the parish.</p> <p>Heyshott Common is an extremely valuable amenity and used extensively for walking and riding. This lies to the north of Polecats (road) and stretches to the northern boundary of the parish.</p> <p>Community assets are: The Unicorn Inn which is a free house pub and restaurant and has been operating since 1839. It is the last remaining pub in the village and is considered an asset to the village fostering a strong community. It attracts visitors and offers employment opportunities for local people. Its central position opposite the Village Green provides a focus for many village events: regular quiz and race nights; charity fundraising</p>

Information Required	Response
	<p>such as The Macmillan coffee morning; monthly locals' lunches and dinners and a darts team</p> <p>The Unicorn Inn is a major supporter and organiser of the biggest annual village event, Heyshott bonfire night. This is well supported by residents and its reputation as a traditional bonfire night draws visitors from surrounding areas and further afield, with approximately 2,000 people enjoying the event. 2022 was the 70th anniversary of the Heyshott Bonfire Night.</p> <p>The village green is used for annual and special events. These include May Day, Harvest festival, Bonfire Night, Jubilee and Coronation village parties.</p> <p>The Cobden Hall, owned and run by Heyshott Cobden Hall Charity is a vital centre for community activities. It acts as a meeting place for the Parish Council, the Cobden Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council, and the Murray Downland Trust. In addition village talks, film nights, parties, wedding receptions, yoga classes and a kindergarten play group are examples of the many activities held in the hall. It also hosts the Heyshott Annual Summer Show, summer Cream teas along with conducted Orchid Walks and a Christmas Bazaar.</p> <p>St James Church is an important village asset. This small 13th century church with a 19th century chancel and north aisle provides not only regular Sunday services, weddings, funerals and christenings, but is also a place for village concerts and other celebratory events.</p>
<p>Particular features of buildings of local character</p>	<p>New buildings should be in keeping with a rural village environment and made of materials that are similar to existing dwellings.</p> <p>Any new properties should conform to the highest Eco standards and to include Solar built as part of the roof design.</p>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p>The parish includes farmland, common land and heathland. New developments should not impact negatively on these or impose breaks in wildlife corridors.</p> <p>The parish should be maintained to allow horse riding, cycling, walking and dog walking to be continued and even encouraged.</p> <p>The SSSIs within the parish of Heyshott are managed under stewardship agreements overseen by Natural England. Some areas are assessed as 'favourable' whereas some are assessed as 'unfavourable, recovering', but these assessments are in some instances old and in need of updating. Management activities on Heyshott Down need to be maintained and management activities on Heyshott and Ambersham</p>

Information Required	Response
	<p>Commons need to be increased to further improve Heyshott's rich natural diversity.</p> <p>In the absence of any management activity by the landowner, Heyshott Village Green is maintained by the Parish Council, which takes a silage cut to minimise the risk of deterioration in its flora.</p> <p>Ideally management grazing should be introduced on Heyshott and Ambersham Commons and reintroduced on the Village Green and on Heyshott Escarpment.</p> <p>The parish includes the South Downs Way and an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways, many of which are on Heyshott Common.</p>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided	<p>The two farms (Manor Farm and Leggs Farm) should be protected, and agricultural land should not be reassigned for domestic dwellings.</p> <p>Businesses that are important to the parish are: Skillsgate; Wildwood Antiques; The Unicorn Inn; B&Bs; Liveries at Leggs Farm and Berrywood.</p> <p>The Unicorn Inn is a large employer of village residents, offering flexible job opportunities from age 16.</p> <p>The Village Hall is also used for Yoga sessions, film shows, talks, Summer Show and celebrations (wedding receptions and parties).</p> <p>In addition, there are several residents who work from home for the most part with occasional travel to an office.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i>	<p>Public space and amenities that are very important to the parish are The Village Green; The Common; Cricket pitch; The Playground; Heyshott Common including its bridleways and footpaths.</p> <p>The children's playground is used by both village families and those from outside the parish. A biannual party is held in the playground to raise funds for its maintenance and for new equipment. An application has been made for the playground to be a designated green space in the current round of the South Downs Local Plan review.</p> <p>Allotments and a community orchard might be considered.</p>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p>	<p>Introduction of speed limit(s) 30mph throughout the whole parish and 20mph at Bex Mill bridge. Improved and well-maintained road signage and markings at Bex Mill Bridge.</p> <p>Improved rainwater removal. Cleared culverts and maintained ditches, especially at the Foundry.</p> <p>Renewable energy – No solar farm. Clear planning guidelines for PV installation in the conservation area are needed.</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 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	██████████ (CLERK HEYSHOTT PARISH COUNCIL
Date	12 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

Community Questionnaire

Parish Priorities Statement

Introduction

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has decided to 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.

The views and input of the local community are vital to us, particularly those of our town and parish councils. Your parish council can contribute to the Local Plan Review is through a **Parish Priority Statement (PPS)**.

SDNPLA are inviting all our town and parish councils that are located entirely in the National Park to prepare a PPS.

Below is a summary of the questions we are asked to address. You can see the full document and questions on the Heyshott Parish Council website at <https://heyshott.org.uk>

Please send your thoughts and comments to Rob Harris by 01/10/2023

Questions to be addressed

What are the three key changes you would like to see in your Parish over the next 15 years?

What are your views on:

Development:

What type: housing, employment & community facilities?

What type and size of homes would be appropriate?

Which locations are appropriate for development?

What construction type/materials should be permitted?

Protected locations

Are there any areas that you feel should be protected from development?

Natural environment

What improvements to our natural environment would you like to see?

Jobs

Are there businesses that should be protected or new ones that would be suitable?

Public spaces

What do you consider to be our important public spaces?

Infrastructure

Does the parish/village require improved/additional infrastructure?