

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	██████████
Town or Parish Council	Newton Valence Parish Council
Main contact address	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████
Main contact telephone number	██████████
Main contact email	██████████
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<p>Consultation included:</p> <p><i>Questionnaires</i> <i>Existing evidence / consultation results - Parish Plan adopted by SDNPA and on the SDNPA website https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Newton-Valence-Village-Plan.pdf</i></p> <p>What percentage of the community have engaged in the preparation of the PPS:</p> <p><i>67% response to Parish Plan.</i> <i>30% response to PPS Questionnaire.</i> <i>The lower response rate to the Questionnaire was due to significant feedback from residents that they did not intend to respond due to the fact that SDNPA take no notice of the Parish Council or local community as evidenced by the Newton Valence Farm WEP and the planning application for the Lower Yard where, in both instances local views and representations were ignored.</i></p> <p>You should also include details of how you have engaged with underrepresented or hard to reach groups such as Young People</p> <p><i>The local community was encouraged to include younger family members' views in their responses.</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.

<i>No or very limited development due to lack of infrastructure. Enduring throughout the 15-year period.</i>
<i>Enhancement of the natural environment. Ongoing throughout the period.</i>
<i>Preservation of the historic sunken lanes and improvement to infrastructure. Ongoing throughout the period.</i>

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	<p><i>The local community is split almost 50/50 with one half wanting no further development at all due to lack of infrastructure, no public transport and the need to limit traffic to preserve the historic sunken lanes and the other half favouring a small development of 5-6 small, affordable houses to replace redundant farm buildings.</i></p> <p><i>Given there are only 85 houses within the parish boundary of which about 50 are in or near the village centre the scope for development is very limited. There is no real requirement for housing in the village given the extensive developments ongoing in and around Alton, Bordon, Whitehall and Petersfield.</i></p>
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	<p><i>The only viable site for development in the village is the site of redundant farm buildings which are situated at The Lower Yard of Newton Valence Farm and SDNPA has all the details and location. See planning application SDNP/19/03160/OUT.</i></p> <p>https://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PTTCMETUN4G00&activeTab=summary</p>
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	<p><i>The ponds and surrounding areas.</i></p> <p><i>The area around the War Memorial.</i></p>

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	<i>Affordable houses to replace redundant farm buildings if no other use can be found for the site.</i>
What size of home is needed locally?	<i>Small or medium houses due to the need to comply with SDNPA objective to not increase the number of large houses in the park in accordance with Policy SD26 paragraph 7.21.</i>
Any other requirements?	<i>Mains drainage. Compliance with central and local government legislation and policies regarding planning and energy efficiency.</i>

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<i>The village pond and surrounding area. The church and churchyard. The village hall and garden.</i>
Particular features of buildings of local character	<i>Newton Valence has been described as a spasmodic grouping of rural dwellings which is an appropriate description and is why the local community value it as it is.</i>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p><i>Newton Valence Farm and a number of residents are members of the Selborne Landscape Partnership (SLP) whose aim is to join up nature across a wide swathe of the local area of East Hampshire and SDNP. SDNPA funded and SLP sponsored this video by the farm manager</i> https://youtube.com/watch?v=oyTHGFIMxrw&si=ipU6chqqowWM-CM4</p> <p><i>In addition to planning conditions for bat and bird box installations the local community has arranged for numerous owl and sparrow boxes to be installed. Dark Skies are very important to village residents and it is felt that more needs to be done to enforce the SDNP policy SD8 curfew conditions by the planning authorities as Newton Valence is in EO – the Core of the Dark Skies Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>More could be done to protect verges which suffer erosion from traffic on the historic sunken lanes.</i></p> <p><i>More hedgerows would encourage species protection. Hedges should only be cut in the Autumn to provide food for birds.</i></p> <p><i>SDNPA should plan for the opportunity presented by ash die back to enhance woodlands.</i></p> <p><i>Footpaths and other rights of way need to be preserved and maintained in a way that is favourable to people, nature and flora and fauna.</i></p>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<p><i>In addition to the farm the village has a number of small businesses most of which are run from home. There are limited opportunities for new businesses due to the lack of infrastructure and the need to preserve the historic sunken lanes.</i></p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</p>	<p><i>The village has a pond which is well cared for by a committee of volunteers and which SDNPA has supported in the recent past. The surrounding area and the War Memorial are important and need protecting. The only other public space is the village hall garden which is very well maintained by volunteers and enjoyed by residents.</i></p>

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</p>	<p><i>Being a small hamlet with no infrastructure (no pub, shops, post office, children’s play area, pavements or street lights) is why the local community values living in Newton Valence. However, one significant improvement strongly sought by the local community in the parish plan and this consultation is the introduction of a 20 or 30 mph speed limit as mandated by central government for rural areas at paragraph of 7.3 of the Department for Transport Circular 1/2013 which states “It is therefore government policy that a 30mph speed limit should be the norm through villages”.</i></p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits/setting-local-speed-limits#section-7-rural-speed-management</p> <p><i>This reduction in the speed limit throughout the village historic sunken lanes is regularly refused by Hampshire County Council highways department and Hampshire police.</i></p> <p><i>A second improvement sought by the local community is the installation of mains drainage throughout the village.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst most properties in the village now have fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) Wi-Fi speeds are unreliable due to ongoing reliance on copper wires to deliver broadband to houses. This is not a long term nor sustainable solution.</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/>

✓	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	19 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