

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	Slindon 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>Working Party including Parish Councillors & volunteers from the community;</p> <p>Parish Consultation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short open-ended question ‘form’ delivered to the 270 Parish households & available on line • 40% response rate • A total of 31 ‘stakeholder’ groups (organisations, clubs, businesses etc) were sent the same ‘form’ – we received responses from all key groups – including school (&PTA), College & churches; and notably the National Trust (who own 90% of parish land and c25% of houses). • Follow-up request for photos to clarify what Parishioners meant by Parish ‘Character’ <p>Publicity/communication to encourage participation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details at Annual Parish Meeting & on the PC website • Articles in Parish magazine • Reminder emails sent to residents via established village email news service - contact telephone numbers for queries • Posters on 5 village noticeboards • Various parish social events attended by Working Party (to encourage participation & answer questions) • Collection points throughout the Parish completed ‘forms’; dedicated email address for on-line submissions <p>Detailed analysis (responses ‘mapped’ against PPS template topics) Findings referenced against 2018 CAAMP Statement and relevant SDNPA policy documents</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.

In order to remain a vibrant Parish (relevant **to all** residents and for future generations), it is imperative that tensions between new technologies and 'the way we live life today' are balanced with safeguarding the special rural characteristics and character of our Parish. Whilst Parishioners greatly value and take very seriously the conservation and preservation of Slindon, we do not want to live in a museum.

Most land & many buildings are owned & managed by the National Trust which impacts hugely on everything discussed within this PPS. See Fact Sheet - 'The Parish of Slindon and the National Trust' [\[link\]](#)

Residents require;

- properties that meet their needs; taking account of family size, income, lifestyle, working practices and net zero policies; with innovation & repurposing.
- traffic management that promotes safety and accommodates future vehicle types
- visitor & parking management to ensure schools and businesses flourish without negative impact on residents and the character of the Parish.

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>Parishioners are broadly against more development. The National Trust own almost all Parish land on an ‘inalienable’ basis and this limits development opportunities – a limitation Parishioners generally like. Development land is sought for some very limited and specific housing. (See next section on ‘Homes’ for details). Also, as existing non-domestic buildings become available there is a desire to re-purpose them for work or studio spaces to encourage a vibrant and economically sustainable community.</p>
<p>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</p>	<p>This exercise has not identified any suitable development areas (consistent with SDNPA plans). The Slindon Community Land Trust (CLT) is actively seeking a ‘rural exception’ site for Affordable Housing (almost certain to be a National Trust owned site).</p>
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<p>Slindon is generally well protected – we believe all relevant specific areas are covered by the combination of the following ;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Trust ‘inalienable’ land ownership. 2. Current Conservation Area & Settlement Boundary. 3. The current specific list of protected ‘Local Green Spaces’(SD47) <p>Parishioners did not identify any additional specific areas needing protection – aside from a comment that Sunnybox Meadow needs protection to preserve the wildlife - deer, rabbits birds/bats.</p>

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	<p>Very limited and specific types of home are sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income-related affordable rental & owner-occupier homes, for younger people, to enable people who grew up here to remain. • (Noting that the Slindon CLT is actively seeking a site for homes). • Smaller ‘downsizing’ accessible homes for elderly current residents, to enable them to remain here.
What size of home is needed locally?	All sizes of home are required – in small numbers and suitably located and designed.
Any other requirements?	<p>It is important to allow homes to be updated to reflect life today and in the future – including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliable power supply - without power failure • An increasing requirement for ‘home working spaces’ and garden office/room • The ability to re-purpose existing non-domestic buildings as work spaces/studios. • Renewable energy & efficiency considerations (a particular challenge for listed buildings) • Access to electric vehicle charging points. • Reliable mobile signal and fast broadband.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<p>The whole Parish is an area of important local character. Slindon is a quintessential flint Downland village in a rural setting, and the main point here is the important physical features and high number of buildings of local character within the Parish. This includes 63 listed buildings - almost 25% of houses.</p> <p>The views of Parishioners align closely with the CAAMPS policy and the principles reflected in the Slindon Conservation Area (and beyond), and the settlement boundary.</p> <p>The absence of infilling (along with the views and vistas highlighted in CAAMPS) are very important factors contributing to local character.</p>
Particular features of buildings of local character	<p>See previous point. Details of architectural styles & materials are fully documented in CAAMPS.</p> <p>The visual ‘context’ for the buildings and the street scape is as important as the buildings themselves, to retain the essentially rural unspoilt ‘character’ of the Parish. Parishioners supplied photos to help define and clarify this rather subtle & subjective topic.</p> <p>Inappropriate ‘suburbanisation’ and too much signage are significant Parish concerns.</p>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p>An important opportunity came to the fore as a direct result of this exercise. Parishioners spoke of ‘rewilding’ opportunities at various sites (Orchard, Forge Field, The Copse, Recreation and playing fields, Sunnybox Meadow etc).</p> <p>The National Trust also explained their vision for managing their ‘open spaces’ to enhance biodiversity.</p> <p><i>In combination</i> these opportunities have the potential to create bigger, better and more joined up areas and wildlife corridors within the Parish.</p> <p>(All of this complements SDNPA ‘Beelines’ in general, and Slindon ‘Beelines’ project in particular).</p>

Jobs (and ‘work’)

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<p>Parishioners are keen to see key Parish businesses/enterprises protected for their value in maximising social & economic sustainability and ensuring a thriving, vibrant community. This includes The Spur, The Forge but also Coronation Hall, the Sports Pavilion, the 2 churches and schools.</p> <p>The 3 working tenant farms (owned by the National Trust) are a prerequisite to sustain the agricultural elements of the Parish.</p> <p>None of the Slindon businesses are currently registered as “Assets of Community Value” with Arun District Council – and we will explore the feasibility and desirability of doing this.</p> <p>Business opportunities (and jobs) could be provided through the re-purposing of unoccupied buildings, as mentioned earlier (studios, cottage industries and small/home offices). These are predominantly owned by the National Trust.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parishioners greatly value our public spaces (including those left by the absence of infilling and the ‘outlooks’ they afford) but are concerned that the rural, tranquil, ‘unspoilt’ and natural character is fragile and easily eroded. Parishioners are also greatly concerned that they are appropriately maintained. • Particular attention is needed to avoid creeping suburbanisation (inappropriate landscaping and materials) and the proliferation of intrusive signage. • Photos give examples of what is meant by ‘in character’ and ‘out of Character’ elements – [LINK] • Key spaces mentioned by Parishioners are Forge Field, the pond, recreation ground, Top Playing Field - albeit there are other listed ‘Local Green Spaces’. • More generally, trees are greatly valued in terms of both their numbers & quality (as acknowledged by CAAMPS) and TPOs will be explored.

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major Parish concern is parking & traffic. There is consensus that it is important, but no consensus on what to do. It is important to differentiate resident and visitor parking. We propose Working Party research of options and ‘best practice’ from relevant locations. Potential approaches in SDNPA ‘Roads in the South Downs’ and Heritage England’s ‘Streets for All’ & also National Trust and other National Park sources. • The A29 crossing is a particular concern. There is a Parish desire to review this long-standing problem. • Telecommunication & mobile signals need improvement and future proofing. • The switch to digital landlines will be a challenge for many Parishioners when considered alongside poor mobile reception and frequent power failures. • Electric car charging is needed. • Better public transport networks are needed, including buses and cycle paths suitable for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents - to ensure the Parish remains viable (especially those who cannot drive for varied reasons) • Those visiting the Parish for leisure - with the aim of reducing car dependency, parking pressures etc.

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	11/10/23

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