

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 | Soberton |
| Main contact address | |
| Main contact telephone number | ██████████ |
| Main contact email | ██████████ |
| Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS | <p>Draft reply published in Parish Magazine (delivered free to all houses and businesses) and the Parish website with a link provided on village Facebook page. <i>Final draft approved by SPC at the PC meeting 17th October 2023</i></p> <p>The PPS draft response was available for comment at the Parish Design Statement (PDS) public consultations held in <i>September/early October</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</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.

- Restore the quality of the countryside in the Parish
- Contain development within existing settlement boundaries, minimise new agricultural and equestrian structures
- Enhance community facilities, particularly the quality of formal recreation areas

Max 100 words

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"> ● Limit new dwellings as Soberton, Soberton Heath and Newtown has no public transport service, shops or mains drainage. ● Proposed building design to be high quality, reflecting local character and proportionate in size to its surrounding. ● Where possible new and extended building proposals should provide a renewable energy strategy and sustainable drainage. <p><i>Max 100 words</i></p> |
| Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed? | Infill development within the settlement boundaries not taking away views and glimpses that are fundamental to the character of the area |
| Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses? | <p>An area adjacent to the Pond on Chapel Road to create a Pocket Park.</p> <p>The open downland to the eastern end of the parish, the River Meon, its water meadows and associated valley character - for Biodiversity.</p> <p>The Forest of Bere with its associated areas – for Biodiversity and carbon capture.</p> <p>The Wallington River and the open landscapes that are full of biodiversity alongside the use for cattle and hay making and farming as well as vital flood plains – for Biodiversity and flood mitigation.</p> |

Homes

| Information required | Response |
|--|--|
| What type of homes would you like to see in your local community? | Adaptable and energy efficient homes for older people and young families. <i>Max 100 words</i> |
| What size of home is needed locally? | Small 2–3-bedroom dwellings (100m ² to 200m ²) <i>Max 50 words</i> |
| Any other requirements? | Energy efficient buildings, sustainable surface water drainage, foul water treatment systems, off-road parking and turning. Electric vehicle (EV) charging provision. <i>Max 100 words</i> |

Design

| Information Required | Response |
|--|---|
| Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community? | The character of the Parish is drawn from the landscape which varies from chalk downland to the River Meon with its water meadows, heathland plateau, Forest of Bere and the upper River Wallington catchment with its distinctive small field pattens and mature woodlands and hedgerows. Existing housing is of a linear nature following the roads and narrow lanes. The open countryside gaps between the settlements maintain their distinctiveness. There are 28 Grade I and II Listed structures in the Parish and any form of development in the vicinity of these properties should enhance not detract. <i>Max 100 words</i> |
| The Particular features of buildings of local character | Soberton: Fifteenth century onwards. Construction - flint, stone, timber framed and red brick, some cream render. Roofs- clay peg tile or slate. General character - flint boundary walls on road frontages and dividing plots. Station Road/Brockbridge: Victorian red brick semi-detached, a few post war single storey. Soberton Heath (post war)/ Newtown (more recent): detached dwellings, mostly two storey, red brick, painted render, red tiled and slate roofs. Front gardens with hedges. Others building in the Parish: clusters of railway (Victorian) or agricultural dwellings (nineteenth century). Red brick with slate roofs. |

The natural environment

| Information Required | Response |
|---|--|
| Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up | <p>Create a series of ecological corridors which would allow a natural movement of species across the landscape where these don't exist. Avoid fencing which restricts movements other than that of cattle or sheep which it is designed to retain.</p> <p>Encourage nesting boxes for swifts and swallows house martins.</p> <p>Do not allow spot lights and bright lighting to protect the wild life and improve the dark skies. Light lamination from developments just outside the SDNP damage the biodiversity</p> <p>Reduced speeds to prevent road kill.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p> |

Jobs

| Information Required | Response |
|--|---|
| Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided | <p>Diversification of farm building has encouraged small businesses such as brewers, joiners, specialist car workshops etc. There remain a few redundant farm buildings and small brownfield sites where further diverse uses could be accommodated. Such diversification must respect the local tranquillity, not creating noise or light pollution. Any proposals will need to consider access, we would not like to see an increase in traffic numbers through narrow <u>lanes and not add pollution into the atmosphere and pollution to our water courses</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p> |

Public spaces

| Information Required | Response |
|--|---|
| <i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i> | <p>Recreation Ground, Soberton Heath Church Green, Soberton (permissive use care of Soberton PCC) Meon Valley Trail (HCC)</p> <p>Common Land: Chapel Road Pond, Soberton Heath Hoe Gate Common, Hoe Gate Ingoldfield Lane Pound, Newtown Chalk Pit, Chalk Hill, Soberton</p> <p>Access Land: Area of Soberton Down including the LNR St Clair's Meadow (permissive routes care of HIWWT)</p> <p>In addition, numerous footpath/bridleways</p> |

Infrastructure

| Information Required | Response |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community building's needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband.</i></p> | <p>Establish a rural bus service. Calm traffic speeds particularly through the settlements. Discourage 'on street' parking, dwellings providing sufficient on plot space. Manage surface water runoff and diffuse pollution into water courses. Development/redevelopment to install sustainable foul water treatment systems which discharge into running water courses or soakaways. Geological understanding of developments on clay soils which dominate our community, the effect of soil movements and increased surface water runoff from new developments onto existing development with appropriate mitigation at the planning stage.</p> <p>Incorporate renewable energy processes which are sensitive to the landscape.</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 1, 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/>

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| | 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 | |

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