

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	Upham 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation process described in Upham Update October 23. Form available on website and hard copies in the village pub, church and from Councillors. • Same information was sent out via commshub – a village email system. • Hard copy of shorter consultation form included with the December issue of Upham Update. Online survey distributed via the commshub email. • The school council surveyed all pupils both those living in and outside of the village. Children were asked what they liked about Upham, what could be improved, and what the village could do about green issues. Their issues and suggestions were very similar to those raised in the consultation of residents. Since this exercise the children have done a litter pick around the school and thought a lot about the effect of litter on our environment. They reported on this in the February 24 issue of Upham Update. • We are working with SDNPA to finalise our updated Village Design Statement, and this has informed our response. • 20% of the parish population responded in writing to the survey and all the children (nearly 100) at the school were consulted. • We drafted the PPS using all this information and discussed it at the February parish council meeting and with the community at the April APM. • Details of the surveys, survey response report, copies of UU articles and emails are on the parish council website.

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>The three key priorities for your parish in the next 15 years</p> <p>The overwhelming response from residents and school children was that people love our village and want to see its unique character preserved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance. Residents love our village, in particular importance the green spaces, rural character, ponds, flint walls and peaceful environment etc. 2. Renewable Energy. New build to the highest possible standards. UpACC (Upham Action on the Climate Crisis), a new resident group supported by the parish council is developing a ride sharing app, looking at the potential of community energy, recycling, biodiversity. 3. Traffic Management – reduce speed limit on Winchester Road (30mph), speed on lanes used as cut through (use SIDs), traffic congestion at school. Resist large development (which would bring extra traffic) along our border with Eastleigh.
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Development and management of land

Information required	Response
<p>What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The large majority of respondents wanted to avoid large scale development. • There is very limited acceptance of small-scale development but a reluctance to see this infilling, existing gaps which are an integral part of the character of the village. • An overwhelming majority see the need of any new homes as being 2/3 bedroom as opposed to larger (4 bed plus) homes.
<p>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited development in already 'built in' areas subject to adherence to our VDS.
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Village design statement shows how the character of the village is to a large extent determined by the gaps between existing development, allowing wider views and narrower glimpses into the surrounding landscape. It is important that these gaps, views and glimpses should be protected from development. Map from our VDS attached. • In addition, open spaces such as the recreation ground, village pond, churchyard should be protected from development.

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	Majority do not want large scale development. Half of replies did not see the need for any new homes. If there were to be any would want to see affordable homes.
What size of home is needed locally?	The responses received that suggested additional housing, would like to see 2/3-bedroom housing, not large properties, 4+bedrooms, taking up the whole of the available site therefore unaffordable for the younger population of the village.
Any other requirements?	New homes to be built to the highest environmental standards with due regard to energy performance and renewable technology.

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 Village Design Statement identifies the Conservation area as an important exemplar for the character and grain of building and landscape we would like to see followed in any new developments. • Also, the 'tunnels' down the central part of Upham Street, and the mature hedges are important landscape character.
Particular features of buildings of local character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are identified in our Village Design statement. • Boundaries of mature hedging set on banks, or flint walls. • A variety of materials but predominantly plain clay tiles or natural slate, orange/red or red multi bricks, predominantly in Flemish bond. Porches, chimneys timber windows whether sash or flush casement type.

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open green spaces of the rural landscape reach into the street scene of the village with a topography blend of native trees and hedgerows and wildflower verges. • Village Ponds – It is important to villagers to retain both village ponds, so the maintenance programme is essential to preserve these. The upper pond is one of the villages focal points providing wildlife habit and home of the village duck family, with the mid Slash Pond providing both habitat and serving as a practical and environmentally friendly solution for water drainage. • Trees / hedgerows / green verges – to retain the blend of native trees and hedgerows is important to villagers. Opportunities to encourage more planting will maintain and enhance the rural environment.

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of residents working from home, increased as a result of Covid. • Encourage small home type businesses such as craft workshops and farm shops would help locals, in particular younger residents to obtain local employment. The re-instatement of the village shop would also provide local employment. • The mobile signal and internet services need to be greatly improved.

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation ground play equipment, benches, picnic tables and pavilion. Home of Upham Football club. Popular with walkers and used for community events. The pavilion could be updated eg. new kitchen. • Recreation ground in Torbay development. Play area with equipment and picnic tables. • Pond with benches. Maintained as a nature site by residents. Meeting point for chatting, walkers and cyclists • Slash Pond - soakaway and wildflower area. • See map attached from our VDS.

Information Required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verges. Successful wildflower planting along Winchester Road. Green verges along village lanes preserve the rural feel (little street furniture). • Churchyard. Green space with benches and views. • Footpath network. Starting point for many fine walks with wide ranging views to Cheesefoot head and Isle of Wight. • Nature recovery possible on all sites

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"> • Traffic calming – We need a traffic calming solution. A topic high on villager’s minds with the speed of traffic and the village being used as a cut through is increasing. Reduced speed limit on both the Winchester Road and Morestead Road would discourage the use of our village lanes as cut throughs. A solution to reduce traffic congestion at school drop off / pick up times is needed as the road is impassable at this time. • Renewable energy - Majority of the village rely on oil or electric to heat our homes. With oil a finite fossil fuel we would like to create a low cost, reliable and sustainable source of energy that does not have a negative impact on and will work with retaining our current green rural landscape. • Improved mobile phone signal - Currently the mobile phone signal is poor across all network providers and our land lines work via the broadband connection. So, in times of electricity power cuts some villagers are without means of communication. We need an improved signal infrastructure that will not have a negative impact the green rural landscape.

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	4 th March, 2024

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 9D