

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	Liz Ford
Town or Parish Council	Selborne Parish Council
Main contact address	c/o Selborne Village Hall, High Street, Selborne, Hampshire. GU34 3JW
Main contact telephone number	07908 408025
Main contact email	clerk@selborneparishcouncil.gov.uk
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	A PPS Working Group of seven Parish Councillors was agreed at the Council meeting on 26th July 2023 and the PPS preparation was discussed at monthly Council meetings thereafter. A “Have Your Say” public consultation was carried out using a questionnaire (based on the SDNPA PPS pro-forma). A hard copy of the questionnaire was delivered to all Parish households in the weekend of 12th/13th August, to community groups and businesses, and with additional copies available at listed locations across the whole of the Parish. The form was also available to download from the Parish Council website and further publicity was made on social media and in the two parish magazines. Two Public Open Days to introduce the PPS and the public consultation were held in two of the three village halls on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August. The closing date for submission of the completed questionnaire was 8th September. A total of 96 completed questionnaires were received which is a response rate of almost 10% based on the number of households in the Parish. The PPS Working Group then evaluated the questionnaires and used Excel spreadsheets to record the number of respondents who raised different issues. Statistical analysis based on this interpretation was then used to inform the identification of the Parish priorities. Reference was made to the purposes of the National Park as well as the Selborne Village Design Statement, Selborne Conservation Area and the Selborne Local Landscape Character Assessment. Based on the above the Working Group prepared a draft PPS document which was reviewed and approved for further public consultation at the Council meeting on 18th October 2023. Two further Public Open Days were held on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October to support public review of the draft document. The original completed questionnaires were also redacted and made available to the public. The draft document was then reviewed in light of the public comments by the PPS Working Group on 14th November and two more times at Council meetings on 22nd and 28th November to produce the final statement included here. The redacted forms, Excel spreadsheets and public comments from the 21st/22nd October Open Days are available on the Parish Council website, via this link: UPDATE 23rd November 2023 – Fourth Version of the Draft Parish Priority Statement – Selborne Parish Council

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.

The three key priorities for the Parish are related to landscape, traffic management, and infrastructure and housing provision.

Protection of the landscape

Maintaining, protecting and enhancing the unique character of the countryside, footpaths and verges featured highly, with achieving greater biodiversity also included. Ideas included planting more trees and wildflower verges. Many respondents mentioned keeping the character of the villages and their environment in line with the Selborne Village Design Statement (VDS) and the Selborne Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA).

Reducing the negative impact of traffic on the quality of life and village infrastructure

Traffic through the Parish is by far the most pressing and relentless issue as detailed in the responses from residents who asked for less traffic, lower volumes and so reducing pollution in its many forms. Additionally enforcement of the speed and weight limits across the Parish is seen as a major priority. Ideas put forward ranged from traffic calming measures such as that in Greatham village, speed cameras, a bypass to be built and the Ham Barn roundabout to be changed to divert traffic away from the Parish. People stated not feeling safe walking along the narrow pavements where they exist. Wider and additional pavements were requested to enable all ages and abilities to have safer walking route options.

Improving a number of key aspects of infrastructure and housing provision.

These ranged from the need for local shops/post offices selling affordable essentials, provision of a pub/hotel with accommodation for tourists and visitors, the need to develop regular and reliable public transport, cycle paths, the provision of free car parking, and the installation of electric charging points for cars and other vehicles. The need to improve communication via the installation of fibre broadband to all homes and local businesses and a desire for improvements in mobile phone reception featured for all villages. It was noted that home working and local businesses all require good quality communications to enable them to thrive and maintain local employment opportunities.

The need for affordable and social housing was noted, downsizing properties for older residents was also raised so they could stay locally and thus free up their houses for new families wanting to buy in the Parish. Housing should be sustainable, eco-friendly and in line with the Selborne VDS.

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	A substantial number of respondents mentioned differing types of housing; these being the provision of mainly affordable and some social housing, followed by homes for those wishing to downsize. At the same time more than a fifth of respondents wanted no new houses to be built. Respondents from areas of the Parish closely associated with nearby local housing development eg Bordon/Whitehill expressed a wish for no additional development. Improved community facilities featured heavily throughout the responses. The community facilities requested for Selborne village included a village store with approximately a quarter of that number wanting it to be a community store. There was support for a pub/hotel with rooms for visitors and better parking facilities. A few suggested the development of the Recreation Ground Pavilion or elsewhere as a community centre. Also better access to health facilities for the whole Parish was mentioned.
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	Building on the site of the old 'Pickers Huts' in Selborne topped this section (respondents linked this to the current SDNPA Local Plan where this land has been designated for affordable housing development) with "no new houses or new development" coming in a close second. A smaller number of respondents suggested the re-development of brownfield sites e.g. the Old Brickworks site in Honey Lane. However more respondents were keen to emphasise how development should be constrained and the need to work within current SDNPA planning policy and other guidance such as the Selborne VDS.
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	Generally, there was a request for all currently undeveloped land; open land, fields and woodland etc. in the Parish, including the land that backs onto peoples' houses, to be protected. Barnfield; the apron of the Hanger; designated Local Green Spaces (Dowlings Little Mead & Church Meadow, Burlands Field/Culvercroft and Selborne Recreation Ground) were all identified as of particular importance as were areas around the periphery of the villages including land owned by the National Trust in Selborne and the area of Shortheath Common in Oakhanger. <i>continued over the page</i>

Information required	Response
	Opportunities should be availed to work closely with local landowners in land and farm management in order not only to enhance the natural environment but also to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities. A need to protect local agricultural land is identified to help ensure maintenance of animal grazing and growing crops not only to enhance biodiversity but also to help ensure food security whilst servicing the needs of the population via local shops.

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	Considering the presumptive nature of the question that building may take place, the responses say that, if building is to take place, it should be small scale development of affordable (with a small number of social) housing units to meet the needs especially of young families and to support and maintain the school which is seen to be important to Selborne village. Good quality provision for older residents to enable downsizing should also be considered. This would allow them to stay in the Parish where they have existing support structures and would free up larger houses for families. However, a similar number of respondents (compared with the "downsizing" group) take the view that there is no need for further provision within the Parish particularly in light of the recent developments at Bordon and Alton. This view varies significantly between the villages with almost three quarters of Oakhanger respondents asking for no further development.
What size of home is needed locally?	There is some support for the provision of smaller housing units of mainly 1 to 3 bedrooms. There is no desire for any market housing to be built. Any that are built would be for smaller families, older residents and starter homes for couples and single persons. Provision of elderly care facilities is noted by a small proportion of the population. They ask for this to be provided near to other amenities and public transport links.

Information required	Response
Any other requirements?	All new build houses to be energy efficient and sustainable using latest and/or best available technology and innovations current at the time of build. Owners of existing houses to be encouraged and helped (by grant or otherwise) to improve energy efficiency of their homes. Grey water re-use, EV Charge points, better foul and surface water management, flood prevention and the development of local energy source provision are also mentioned as being important by smaller numbers of respondents.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	A high proportion of respondents, including those from outside Selborne village, referred to the Selborne Village Design Statement (VDS) and the areas described in the VDS as meriting protection. The historic buildings of the villages should be protected: the Conservation Area, listed buildings, village halls, public houses, war memorials, churches and churchyards, Selborne High Street and all the lanes leading off it, the Lions Mouth and the Gilbert White Museum and café. All these are important to the Selborne village community. Listed buildings, village hall, public house, church and churchyard also important to residents of Oakhanger. Other areas were identified and not just on account of built heritage. The Parish has strong links to the natural world and so all its green spaces both in and around the villages plus their surrounds and footpaths should be protected. This includes areas such as Barnfield, the Hanger and its green apron (the open pasture fields that define the Hanger and its relationship with the village), open spaces within the villages and behind houses, the Zig Zag, Selborne Common, the designated Local Green Spaces (Dowlings Little Mead & Church Meadow, Burlands Field/ Culvercroft, and Selborne Recreation Ground), the Plestor, the Lythes, and Shortheath Common. Valued features of the landscape also to include open streams, tributaries and watercourses. On drawing up priorities we recognise the statutory purposes of the South Downs National Park and the requirements of legislation as regards the Selborne Conservation Area.

Information Required	Response
Particular features of buildings of local character	There was a strong suggestion for, where possible, the use of local materials that match the aesthetic of the villages to be used in any new small development so that this can sit happily alongside existing buildings whether of traditional or more recent design in line with the Selborne VDS. The use of timber, local stone and traditional roofing methods should be encouraged where appropriate. A need for energy efficiency should also be prioritised in any design whilst remaining in keeping the historic nature of the setting. Any social and affordable housing development could only be achieved if the landscape quality is preserved, and the Selborne VDS guidelines are followed.

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	Maintaining and enhancing the special character of the landscape and the unique natural environment has featured heavily. Many respondents commenting on a need for improvement in the state of the footpaths throughout the Parish. They identify a need to ensure the footpaths are well maintained and accessible, not only for our own residents but also for visitors, with potential benefits in supporting tourism and the local economy as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles via exercise generally and walking in particular. The importance of protecting and encouraging biodiversity, to promote planting trees and wildflowers on verges and other spaces, were all common comments. There was support for the Selborne Landscape Partnership, South Downs National Park and the National Trust, as well as seeing what collaborations can be developed with all landowners to help protect and enhance our landscape. Previous comments within the Land Management section reinforce the desire to work with landowners and farmers to ensure that suitable animal grazing and arable land is maintained. This not only enables the important production of food but also supports a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna and maintains the landscape for which the area is famous.

Jobs

Information Required	Response
Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided	Support for existing local employers should include the Gilbert White Museum, shops, pubs, Blackmoor Estate, farms, and businesses on small service and industrial estates - particularly but not exclusively at Oakhanger. There should also be support for prospective employers across the Parish. The type of support to include much improved access to fibre broadband, improved electrical infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging and significantly improved mobile telephone signal. Improvements to local public transport provision to provide better transport options for the Parish and reduce the number of private car journeys. Improved provision for home working (technical improvements including fibre Broadband and improved mobile phone reception) and the provision of working hubs to reflect changing working practices is seen to be important to enable local business to thrive and to support the local economy.

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i>	The Recreation Ground in Selborne was mentioned most, with ideas for improved facilities, such as an outdoor gym, wildlife garden and facilities for a greater range of ages than is currently available. Many areas were mentioned specifically together with a variety of comments about maintaining or improving accessibility to them, from better maintained footpaths, safer crossing of the B3006 and improved parking, to enable residents from across the Parish to enjoy the beauty of the area. A need for parking in general has been mentioned in many areas of the Parish Priority Statement; there is a need to examine how this can be addressed. To ensure equality of play opportunity throughout the Parish.

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i>	Half of all respondents from across the villages within the Parish identify the need to manage road traffic more effectively; specifically, to reduce traffic speeds, volumes and HGV movements, and to improve local pavements to provide safe walking route options for all ages and abilities. Traffic is seen as being a major contributor of concern to many members of the community. It is identified as having a negative effect on the quality of life, through damage to the fabric of historic houses adjacent to the roads, and to having a negative impact on population health via pollution in its various forms. Mobile telephone and broadband services are poor across the Parish. There is an identified need for fibre broadband connection to each property to support the introduction of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and home working together with improvements to mobile telephone reception. This was supported by almost half of all respondents. The lack of a frequent and reliable bus service, especially but not exclusively at the start and end of the day, mitigates against its use to connect with national train services and wider regional and national public transport systems as well as access to other services including healthcare providers, schools and colleges, and shops at nearby centres. This is seen as resulting in increased use of cars for local journeys and having an unfair consequence for members of the population who, for a variety of reasons, cannot drive – the young, the old and the infirm. The provision of a local shop and post office is specifically mentioned by about half of all respondents. The provision of a pub/hotel in Selborne with rooms for visitors is also supported. Insufficient free local car parking in key locations is seen to work against residents, businesses, and visitors alike and is of significant concern.

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	Liz Ford	
Date	30 th November 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