

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

Extra note for East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils July 2019

This is an additional note providing information about the recent adoption of the South Downs Local Plan and my responsibilities following re-election to the National Park Authority.

The Local Plan has now been formally adopted by the National Park Authority, incorporating a small number of relatively minor modifications requested by the Independent Inspector.

Parish Councils with land inside the National Park should, therefore, begin to use the new policies as none of the policies in the East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy (nor in the previous East Hampshire District Local Plan) are now relevant.

Because it is acknowledged that there are many new aspects in the new Local Plan, the Park's officers have already provided training sessions for the EHDC officers and Councillors who will continue to consider many of the applications in the area. Feedback from this training has been very positive and will also be provided for Parish Councils in the months ahead.

For obvious reasons it was not possible to print copies of the final version of the Local Plan until it had been formally adopted, but printing is now underway and all relevant Parish Councils should receive a hard copy in the near future.

All the relevant material (including interactive policy maps) will also be available on-line via this link: [South Downs Local Plan](#).

The new Local Plan is an innovative landscape-focused document covering the period to 2033. There are 92 policies in the Plan which specify the high standards that all proposed development must meet to protect the precious natural environment and the vital 'ecosystem' services that it gives us such as clean water, food and space to breathe.

New housing sites have been dispersed across the towns and villages of the National Park, rather than just concentrated in the largest settlements, and high goals are being set for affordable housing: 50% in sites of 11 or more new homes.

Everyone at the National Park Authority is grateful for all the help and support provided by Parish Councils through all the rounds of public consultation over the last few years.

Having been on the Planning Committee for almost eight years, helping to shape the content of the Local Plan, I have now swapped onto the NPA's Policy Committee (and have been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Committee) where I will take great interest in updating and implementing the 'Partnership Management Plan' (PMP). This sets out how the SDNPA and a range of partner organisations would like the National Park to be in the future and identifies how they can work together over the next five years towards achieving this.

It is likely that Parish Councils will be able to contribute to each of the main priority areas in the PMP as well as conservation and heritage organisations, rural economy representatives, water companies, farming groups and volunteer networks. Projects need not be delivered by Parish Councils themselves, but could be undertaken by others in (or connected with) our communities.

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