

14 July 2023

Town/Parish Clerk
By email only

Dear Colleagues

Parish Priorities Statements

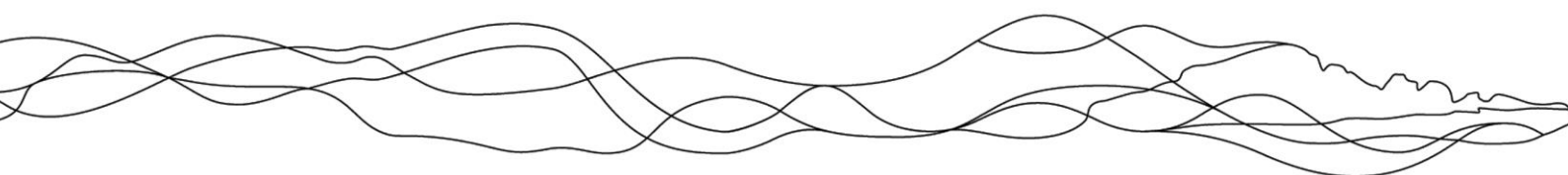
Following our last correspondence on the Local Plan Review in February 2023, I am writing with a brief update on the progress of the Local Plan review and providing a copy of the Parish Priorities Statement (PPS) template and the example PPS prepared by the SDNPA.

In December 2022 the National Park Authority considered a proposal to review the timetable for the Local Plan Review. The Authority agreed a revised timetable, more information on this can be found in the minutes and papers of the [December NPA meeting](#). The new timetable will allow the Authority to consider the major changes evolving regarding National Planning Policy reform and will ensure that the Local Plan Review is considered and adopted under the new plan making arrangements. The current timetable schedules the first formal consultation on the Local Plan Review (Regulation 18) early in 2025.

We ran our Call for Sites over the summer of 2022 and received approximately 300 site submissions. We also ran a Call for Local Green Spaces and received 95 submissions. Thank you if your parish council sent in a site. Officers are now out on site assessing all new site submissions, reviewing sites which were submitted to previous call for sites and sites which were identified by neighbourhood planning groups during their own site selection process. As you can imagine this is a significant task, but we hope to have the results available later in the year.

In our letter to you in February we asked all Town and Parish Councils for help in developing the evidence base for the Local Plan Review. We asked for your help in contributing to two evidence-based studies to identify the facilities and open spaces for any settlements within your Parish. I would like to thank all those town and parish councils that responded, we have received nearly 100 LGS submissions and around 50 settlement facility reports. This information will feed into the Local Plan Review process.

We mentioned **Parish Priorities Statements** in our previous letter to you and provided more information through presentations at the Spring 2023 Parish Workshops. The presentation and other supporting information from those workshops can be found on our [webpage](#). PPS are your opportunity to set out the principal needs and prevailing views of your local community. PPS will be used as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review and will inform our decisions on policy development, land allocations and designations. They are a key part of the collaborative approach to plan making the Authority is committed to. PPS will be easier and less resource intensive to prepare than a Neighbourhood Plan. You are, however, reminded that PPS will not form a part of the development plan.



A copy of the template for PPS and guidance is also included with this letter. We have also prepared an example PPS, which should help Town and Parish Councils to understand the type of information we are looking for. As many Town and Parish Councillors will have been recently elected to the role, can I ask that this letter, the PPS template and example PPS are circulated to all Councillors to make them aware of this opportunity.

We have asked for completed PPS to be returned by 20 October 2023 so that your views can inform the development of the Local Plan Review at an early stage. If you are able to stick to this deadline it would be very helpful, but if you need extra time (for instance to carry out public engagement) please do talk to the team to agree an individual timetable. If you have any questions about PPS, or the timetable for submission of your completed PPS please contact us at planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



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