

# 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
<b>Contact name</b>	Mark Rogers (Chairman Warnford Parish Meeting)
<b>Town or Parish Council</b>	Warnford Parish Meeting
<b>Main contact address</b>	Moorhen Farm, Warnford, Hampshire, SO32 3LB
<b>Main contact telephone number</b>	07712 868858
<b>Main contact email</b>	chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk
<b>Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS</b>	<p>The PPS was publicised, and views sought/obtained as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the Parish Annual General Meeting, one of our two meetings held annually.</li> <li>• PPS posted on our Parish website.</li> <li>• The Parish News, which goes to every house in the Parish.</li> <li>• via email to all on our Parish email list</li> <li>• Drop-in session at the Village Hall, which was advertised through multiple channels including our website, email, noticeboard, Parish News, and word of mouth.</li> <li>• E-mail and discussions with individuals.</li> </ul> <p>All feedback received was considered when preparing this PPS. The Parish Meeting Chairman and Clerk then discussed and modified the draft PPS before submitting it.</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.

- Our parish is committed to preserving and improving the green infrastructure, of which the watercress beds are an essential part. We wish to ensure they are not destroyed/ developed for other purposes.
- The River Meon, a valuable but threatened chalk stream, runs through our parish, and we wish to safeguard it for future generations.
- Address the excessive noise and speeding issues caused by motorbikes and cars, crossing the A32 is hazardous and the noise is unbearable. These can only be dealt with (eg reducing the speed limit on A32 from 40mph) with cooperation from relevant authorities eg Highways, and Police.

*Max 100 words*

## Development and management of land

Information required	Response
<b>What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage the development of agricultural, horticultural and greenhouse-based industries to promote job growth.</li> <li>• We support the development of small-scale light industrial units, including offices, to bring employment opportunities to our community.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<b>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No, the majority believed that any future building development, whether low cost or not, is unfeasible due to the lack of facilities and transport to support everyday life, see 'Homes' below</li> </ul>
<b>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The watercress beds at present are not being used to cultivate watercress since it is apparently more cost-effective to do so in Portugal. However, these beds provide a suitable habitat for a wide range of wildlife that is supported by this unique aquatic ecosystem. We aim to protect these beds as farmed watercress beds or as a habitat to continue supporting wildlife. For the reasons</li> </ul>

Information required	Response
	above, it is important to protect these beds. Please refer to the attached drawings for more site-based information.

## Homes

Information required	Response
<b>What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The majority believed that Warnford is not an appropriate location for future residential development due to the lack of amenities and services, eg no shop, medical facilities, or school, with limited school places available in neighbouring villages, and almost no public parking. Public transport (buses) is virtually non-existent (only one or two services/week) and no bus serving local schools apart from one contract bus serving only one school in Petersfield.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<b>What size of home is needed locally?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the extent that there is house building, e.g. infill, it should be affordable or social homes with 2, 3, or 4 bedrooms.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 50 words</i></p>
<b>Any other requirements?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New homes should be designed to be energy-efficient and carbon-neutral, with minimum requirements for air or ground-source heat pumps and solar power. It is recommended to use conventional materials such as flint.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

## Design

Information Required	Response
<b>Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The riverside Village Playground was gifted to the village and is held in trust for the use and enjoyment of the residents so is not a public playground in the usual sense.</li> <li>The Warnford Village Hall, also gifted to the Parish and held in trust, has a maximum capacity of 100 people and is an important community feature at the heart of the village.</li> <li>The River Meon, our section of the River Meon, remains in its ideal natural state and is home to a diverse range of wildlife.</li> </ul>

Information Required	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The owner is "resting" the Watercress beds as a result wildlife flourishes there.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<p><b>Particular features of buildings of local character</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Warnford, a variety of traditional materials have been used in construction over the years in particular flint, brick and flint combined or rendered chalk walls, thatch, handmade plain clay tile, slate roofs, timber-framed windows, and timber doors.</li> <li>Boundaries: walls of flint or stone</li> <li>Cottage-style properties</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

## The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p><b>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warnford plays a vital role in preserving the River Meon's ecosystem. The community has established special habitats to nurture and expand the population of Water Voles in the area, and this initiative is ongoing.</li> <li>The Watercress beds provide a safe haven for diverse wildlife, including nesting and migratory birds. The conservation of these lands is a crucial part of Warnford's identity, and we aim to protect them from any future development.</li> <li>These land areas and the river should, where feasible, be accessible to the locals, enabling them to be close to, learn about and enjoy the region's natural beauty.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

## Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p><b>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to protect the George and Falcon, our local pub and a dominant building in the parish, which provides employment locally.</li> <li>• Protect the light industrial units up Pinks Hill behind the Village Hall and at the Old Calf Shed, Lippen Lane.</li> <li>• We would accept further small scale units on brownfield sites in our parish to create employment opportunities for the community if they cannot be used for agriculture or horticulture.</li> <li>• We want to protect the Watercress beds, as when functioning, they provide employment to members of our parish.</li> <li>• We would look favourably upon property extensions that accommodate home working.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

## Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apart from the Church of Our Lady of Warnford, which is in the woodlands of the (private) Warnford Estate ( it has a long history, with a church first founded here by St. Wilfred in the 7th Century ), there are no genuinely public places in the village However, there are:</li> <li>• Warnford Playground is a recreational area that was gifted to parish residents. It features a river, picnic area, playground equipment, football field, dog walking, and hosts the annual village fete and other village events.</li> <li>• The Hampshire Hogs Cricket Club, established in 1887, boasts over 400 members and is located in our parish.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

## Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, <b>renewable energy</b></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the public footpath network, which is good for recreational walking although not useful for accessing other villages for work/school/etc, given the nature of the paths and access to them.</li> <li>• Our village's rural broadband is slow, with those residing far from the box experiencing poor internet speeds.</li> <li>• Only one-third of Warnford has reliable mobile phone coverage, with over ¾ lacking 4G connectivity.</li> <li>• The bus service is virtually non-existent, and it is unrealistic to think it would be improved to allow people to manage without their own transport.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Max 100 words</small></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 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.
<b>Information required</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Print Name</b>	Mark Rogers (Chairman, Warnford Parish Meeting)
Date	20th October 2023

**We ask that forms are returned by email to [planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto: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