

SOUTH DOWNS PLANNING

NEWS FROM YOUR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



Welcome to the planning newsletter for the South Downs National Park Authority
Send your comments to us at planningnewsletter@southdowns.gov.uk

Welcoming rediscovery of environmental planning

Welcome to the winter edition of the South Downs National Park's planning newsletter and I do hope you and your family are safe and well. As 2020 draws to a close, it leads to reflection and consideration of what may lie ahead.

It's been a year of considerable challenges for all and, on a positive note, new opportunities to embrace. We have had to adapt to new ways of working, communicating and determining matters, with IT skills and learning coming to the fore.

I'm very proud that the National Park's planning team hardly 'missed a beat' in keeping the service going, visiting sites safely, enforcing matters as promptly as we could and defending appeals 'remotely' in a robust fashion.

Policy making and training continued apace and we even got the country's second only virtual Examination in Public into the Joint West Sussex Soft Sand Plan.

To be found 'sound' so quickly so that we can adopt the Plan shows we can work in this new way. I'm also grateful to all the 'host' authorities who carry out so much good work on our behalf, and who kept planning going despite being part of organisations that have to deliver more obvious 'front line' Covid-related functions.

On top of this we also had to adapt to a myriad of changes in the planning and wider system. Some were driven by the pandemic, such as extending permitted development rights, and others in pursuance of the Government's drive for more homes and greater levels of home ownership.

While the Planning White Paper may have been the biggest announcement with its proposed changes to the Local Plan system and drive toward data-driven 'mechanisation' of determining applications against



codes, it was the use of algorithms (this time for housing need) that caught the news headlines.

On top of planning changes both the Agriculture Act passing into law and the passage of the Environment Bill, albeit painfully slow, promise to affect the planning system directly and indirectly. Here at the National Park the intertwining of these three related areas is key, not least as 75 per cent of the landscape designated is farmland.

Looking ahead, I do hope that the renewed enthusiasm for so many elements of the countryside, and the growing realisation that one can effectively work without a daily long commute to a big city, leads all to rethink what we are trying to achieve with the planning system. Access to data, yes, and to inform better decision making, most certainly. But also access to the countryside with the ability to live and work in an affordable manner, rather than huge commutes by many both into and out of this and other National Parks, not to mention the wider countryside.

The environment, the economy and a need for equity have always been at the heart of the planning system.

With biodiversity net gain set to become a formal part of the planning system and an appreciation of the outdoors

perhaps like there has never been seen for decades, I hope the rediscovery of the environmental side of planning continues with the gusto it deserves.

We need our lead in seeking environmental net gains from all development in a proportional manner, particularly significant national infrastructure projects of which we are dealing with a few, to spread. I'm already seeing signs of this in urban as well as rural areas. It's great the Government sees response to climate change and greening the economy as part of path to prosperity, not a drag on the economy.

Design will be a key topic looking to next year and beyond. The Government is placing emphasis, in principle, on good publically acceptable design and is determined to drive standards up. This is a good thing and we will be launching our new design guide Supplementary Planning Document next year to ensure all proposals seek to be the best whether traditional or contemporary in terms of 'style'. That said I have concerns that some believe we can pattern book good design everywhere, such that if you meet certain parameters you can go ahead and develop with no recourse to planning or public scrutiny.

As anyone involved in creative design knows, while codes, storybooks and design parameters set a framework, it's through iterative work, often engaging with local communities, that many truly inspiring works are created.



Artist's impression of the approved glasshouse and gardens at Woolbeding, National Trust

Talking of inspiring and creative, I've been so impressed with the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of many local businesses and individuals in order to keep going this year. In our own small way we have adjusted our processes, procedures and policy interpretations to assist those most badly affected that have business or enterprise that take inspiration from the landscape. I suspect we are all going to have to be quite innovative this festive season in order to celebrate in safe ways and ensure we care for all around us, whether directly or 'virtually'.

On that note I would like to thank you all for subscribing to this newsletter when there are so many calls on your time and wish you a very Merry Christmas. One thing is for sure, whatever your views, the New Year will come round and Planning will continue to excite and exasperate. I believe that is what democratic processes are designed to foster?

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning

Response submitted to Planning White Paper

The Authority has submitted its response to the Government's consultation on its Planning White Paper: "Planning for the Future".

The White Paper sets out a number of proposed changes to the current national planning system and the SDNPA has made detailed comments on nine key matters:

- Clarification on the Status of National Parks
- Local Plans and Zoning
- Neighbourhood Development Plans
- Environmental Protection
- Climate Change
- Design and Beauty
- Development Management
- Infrastructure Levy
- Public Engagement.

The response was approved by Members at a meeting of the National Park Authority on 15 October.



Ian Phillips, Chair of the Authority, said: "The past six months has shown that National Parks and protected landscapes are needed now more than ever, not just by the communities who are lucky enough to live in and around them, but by the whole nation.

"The Dower Report of 1945 understood that 'If the National Parks are to carry out their task to public and Parliamentary satisfaction, they must have a direct and first-instance concern in the whole range of planning operations, including not least the case-by-case administration of planning control.'

"This key point is as relevant now as it was when National Parks were being created – understanding that planning is not just about buildings, it's also about connecting people to place. It guides not just where and how we live, but also provides a clear means by which we both connect people to their protected landscapes and conserve those protected landscapes for this and future generations.

"Last year's Defra Landscapes Review by Julian Glover focused on the critical role the planning system plays in protecting National Parks, stressing the importance of each National Park Authority's planning powers.

"This milestone report also recommended a strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system.

"Our response to the Planning White Paper consultation focuses on nine clear areas and we look forward to working with Government to ensure that planning continues to conserve and enhance our protected landscapes on behalf of the nation."

Read the full letter of response [here](#).

Boost of almost £1.8m for community infrastructure projects and help for people to access countryside



New cycling and walking routes, safe pedestrian crossings and an inspiring initiative to help young people are among the community projects to benefit from a funding boost from the Authority.

A raft of initiatives across Hampshire and Sussex are set to benefit from a fund set up and administered by the SDNPA called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is paid by developers to support new local infrastructure.

Eight individual projects are set to receive a share of just over £900,000, while just over £600,000 has been earmarked to support community infrastructure projects for Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council and East Sussex County Council.

In addition, a further £280,000 has been given to 33 parishes for their own projects. Community infrastructure covers a wide range of purposes, including transport, access, education, community buildings, climate change mitigation, green infrastructure such as tree planting, and recreation.

Among the projects will be an extension of the popular Centurion Way, following the former Chichester to Midhurst railway line. The works will create a new 5.3km multi-user path from West Dean to the South Downs Way at Cocking – giving cyclists and walkers disabled-friendly year-round access into the heart of stunning countryside.

Another beneficiary will be Petersfield's Kings Arms Youth Project, helping towards the purchase of, and improvement works to, a new permanent home for the project in Petersfield Town Centre. The project supports local young people affected by challenging home circumstances, as well as stress and anxiety-related conditions.

The fresh CIL funding comes after a previous tranche of funding, announced last January, benefited 20 projects

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across Sussex and Hampshire that took a share of £550,000.



Tim Slaney, Director of Planning, said: "We began a new decade for the National Park by announcing some significant CIL funding and we're pleased to be finishing 2020 with this good news.

"Good infrastructure, particularly around access, recreation and wellbeing, can make a real difference to the quality of people's lives. A number of these projects will significantly improve access to the countryside, helping more people to connect with nature and reap the health and well-being benefits.

"After such a difficult year for so many people, I hope we can all agree that access to this beautiful landscape has provided great comfort and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

"The Community Infrastructure Levy is one of the cornerstones of our role as a planning authority, ensuring benefits flow from any acceptable development. It's wonderful to be able to help so many communities with such a varied range of projects."

All the CIL funding has been drawn from developers' contributions taken from the 2019/2020 financial year.

Projects set to benefit, with approximate funding:

Centurion Way Phase 2 – construction of part of a new 5.3km multi-user

path from West Dean to South Downs Way at Cocking (following the former Chichester to Midhurst Railway Line) £500,000.



Washington Link

Footpath – to provide an 'offroad' route for walkers, horse-riders and cyclist between Washington Village and the South Downs Way at Washington Bostal Car Park. £166,700.

Seven Sisters Country Park – for a number of infrastructure projects associated with enhancing the facilities and making it more accessible for all. £100,000.

Ditchling – Keymer Road Car Park – to provide additional car parking spaces (including disabled bays and cycle racks) for the village and visitors to the National Park. £70,000.

Stroud Village Improvement Scheme – towards highway improvement works and improved pedestrian footways, crossing points and village signs. £20,000.

Iping Common – to upgrade the three entry points and paths to improve access to the Common, including drainage improvement works and re-surfacing the entrance points using Fittleworth Stone. £19,000.

Kings Arms Youth Project – towards the purchase of, and improvement works to, a new permanent home for the Youth Project in Petersfield Town Centre. £15,000.

Farringdon Village Improvement Scheme – towards highway improvement works to improve highway safety issues and village signs. £11,327.27.

New-build development gets the go-ahead



New affordable homes are being delivered as part of a new-build development on the edge of a village.

The Planning Committee for the National Park Authority gave the green light to plans for 17 homes on land south of Heather Close, in West Ashling, near Chichester.

Nine of the new homes will be affordable – seven rented tenure and two shared ownership.

Planners and the developer had to work closely together from the pre-application stage, given the site's edge-of-settlement location and landscape sensitivities.

The site falls within the Settlement Policy Boundary and is allocated for housing development in the South Downs Local Plan.

The final plans taken to committee included an emphasis on design excellence, as well as substantial biodiversity mitigation measures, including tree planting, green roofs, wildflower grasslands, and native hedgerows.

The plans also featured green open space, 36 parking spaces for residents and 22 cycle spaces, together with nutrient neutrality and recreational disturbance mitigation for internationally-protected areas.

Considering the plans, Design Officer Benjamin Terry said: "The submission makes a good understanding of the site and the surrounding area.

"The scheme has taken visual cues from the historic settlement edge of West Ashling, which has informed the layout, type and scale of buildings.

"The relationship between buildings and spaces create a coherent identity for the site that will be visually attractive and creates a sense of place."

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning, told Members of the Planning Committee: "Officers have taken into account that the proposal has explored multiple reasonable opportunities to provide a well-balanced mix and affordable homes in West Ashling.

"The proposal has demonstrated a good understanding of the landscape sensitivities of the area and positively responds to these, resulting in a residential development that would be of high quality design."

Planning Position Statement is published

The Authority has published a key planning position statement aimed at helping local businesses during the pandemic.

We have identified the following sectors of the National Park to be at greatest risk under the pandemic. We will prioritise micro (fewer than 10 employees) and small (10 to 49 employees) businesses operating in these three sectors:

- Land-based industries including agriculture, forestry and fishing
- The visitor economy including visitor attractions and visitor accommodation
- The knowledge sector including businesses where the production of goods and services is based primarily upon knowledge intensive services such as advanced manufacturing

Businesses in these sectors will be prioritised in the following ways:

Planning process: validation and determination of planning applications: discharge of conditions; working pro-actively with businesses currently applying for grants or funding that need planning permission in place prior to submission of their funding application.

Financial factors: free pre-application advice (one meeting followed up with written advice); exceptionally waive monitoring fees for Section 106 legal agreements

Policy interpretation: we may consider as a matter of discretion to show temporary flexibility in regard to the following aspects of these Local Plan policies: Policy SD34.1.a add the 'knowledge sector' to the list of key sectors; SD35.3 no longer require marketing evidence over a period of at least 12 months currently for a change of use from an employment use (B use) to another commercial use (non-B use); SD36 and SD37 consider positively all applications for commercial uses in our town and village centres that will increase footfall, with less regard to specific Use Classes definitions and more regard to likely impacts.

Lucy Howard, Planning Policy Manager for the Authority, said: "This statement seeks to help local businesses during the pandemic in line with our socio-economic duty and to help us build a sustained and green recovery for the National Park without harm to its special qualities.



"It's a material consideration in the determination of planning applications both by the National Park Authority (NPA) and local authorities through hosted arrangements.

"It will be kept under review as we adjust to the new normal."

Click [here](#) to read the Planning Position Statement in full.

Key achievements are highlighted in new report



Provision of affordable homes, significant habitat improvements and 2km of new car-free paths are among the highlights of a new report profiling the work of the Authority.

The 2020 Authority Monitoring Report has now been published – our sixth AMR and the first to be produced since the adoption of the South Downs Local Plan in July 2019.

The AMR reveals progress on the timetables and milestones for the preparation of documents set out in the Local Development Scheme.

The AMR considers the performance of policies across the National Park and here are a number of important findings highlighted in the report:

A Thriving, Living Landscape

- For the first time in our AMR we are using the satellite data from our Earth Observation to report on land cover across the National Park
- The percentage of lowland heath in a favourable condition increased by 19 per cent over the past three years.
- The amount of chalk grassland in favourable condition increased by the equivalent of 81 football pitches last year

People Connected with Places

- 156 new camp site pitches were permitted
- 2km of car free paths were created

Towards a Sustainable Future

- A net total of 282 new homes were completed in the National Park in 2019-20 – exceeding the Local Plan annualised provision figure of 250 new homes
- Of these new homes, 62 were affordable.
- We have a 7.92 year supply of deliverable housing sites

Lucy Howard, Planning Policy Manager, said: “The AMR is definitely worth a read – it shows the breadth of the Authority’s work with our award-winning South Downs Local Plan underpinning the significant progress that has been made to make the National Park a better home for both people and nature.”

[Read the 2020 AMR here](#)

Planning to be at the heart of nature recovery plan



Planning will play a key role as part of an ambitious vision to help boost nature and drive a green economic recovery.

The bold strategy, covering the South East region, aims to create a connected network of “green infrastructure” that makes havens for wildlife, supports local economies, helps to mitigate climate change and gives local people all the health and well-being benefits of a better natural environment.

Twelve areas across the region – primarily on the edge or beyond the National Park’s boundaries – have been identified as key areas for long-term investment in more green infrastructure.

The term “green infrastructure” embraces the network of natural and semi-natural features, spaces and water courses that can be managed to deliver wide-ranging benefits for people and wildlife. It can include parks, gardens, rivers and streams, roadside verges, street trees, hedgerows, churchyards, allotments and nature reserves as well as wider green spaces.

The detailed masterplan, called The People and Nature Network (PANN), has been produced in partnership with a range of organisations, including local authorities across Hampshire and Sussex, the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, The Woodland Trust, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

Andrew Lee, Director of Countryside Policy and Management for the South Downs National Park Authority, said: “Nature doesn’t recognise administrative boundaries and that’s why the People and Nature Network is such a vital piece of work – laying out our collective long-term ambition, at both a regional and national level, to promote more green infrastructure.”

PANN ties in with the Government’s 25-year Environment Plan, which sets out a number of targets, including clean air and water, thriving plants and wildlife, and adapting to climate change.

The partnership will work towards its goals through a number of avenues, including encouraging green infrastructure in emerging planning policy, seeking more local and national funding and developing more community projects that help the environment.

The People and Nature Network report can be read **[here](#)**

Homes plan delivers benefits



Nat Belderson, Planning Link Officer, gives an update on a scheme delivering new homes and bringing infrastructure benefits to the local community.

In October, following the signing of a Section 106 legal agreement, permission was issued for 18 homes on land at Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex. This site is a good example of how communities can come together to shape how development takes place in their areas. The land was identified by the community for inclusion in the Lavant Neighbourhood Development Plan – adopted three years ago – subject to a number of requirements that would need to be addressed to make a scheme acceptable. These included:

- removal and replacement of the football pitch on an alternative site
- a suitable buffer to keep the development away from an adjacent scheduled ancient monument
- a large part of the site, including the buffer, was to be made available in perpetuity as public open space
- increased car parking for memorial hall/replacement football pitch
- new footpaths through the site, including a safer crossing for an existing footpath across Pook Lane.

In addition, the scheme was required to provide 50 per cent affordable housing in line with Strategic Policy SD28 of the South Downs Local Plan.

The application was complicated by the area identified for the replacement pitch falling just outside of the National Park, meaning the proposals had to be submitted as a cross-boundary application with determination to be split between Chichester District Council and the SDNPA.

The developer, Sunley Estates, worked positively with Lavant Parish Council and the local community to develop the proposals. This resulted in a scheme using design, details and materials that are appropriate and sympathetic to the area.

Accompanying the development will be a scheme of works to protect, enhance and maintain a section of the Devil's Ditch, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (currently on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register) running along the boundary of the site, along with on-site interpretation. These works will help increase the enjoyment and understanding of this SAM by the public, in support of the second statutory purpose of the National Park. The developers will also be making financial contributions towards the maintenance and improvement of the nearby Centurion Way cycle path, and to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy.

Enforcement action ensures biodiversity gains delivered



Wildflower green roofs that help boost biodiversity have been installed at a new tourism development following successful enforcement action by the Authority.

Two years ago planning permission was granted for 12 holiday lodges and a reception lodge on land at The Droveaway, in Swanborough, East Sussex.

However, a planning breach occurred when wildflower green roofs were omitted in the construction. Instead the roofs were constructed with plasticised membrane in a light grey colour, with the applicant proposing to leave the roofs as they were.

As well as negative landscape impact, this would have resulted in a net loss of an area of approximately 850m² of wildflower habitat that supports a range of invertebrate and bird species.

Enforcement action was supported by the community, with Kingston Parish Council stating: "The purpose of the condition was to mitigate the visual impact of the new lodges on the landscape of the South Downs National Park.

"The council has received complaints from parishioners that the proposed variation would detract from their enjoyment of the landscape."

Enforcement Officer Jack Trevelyan said: "During the original planning approval, these green roofs were identified as crucial and their omission cause the enforcement team to step-in. Following a recommendation for Refusal at SDNPA committee to remove these green roofs, they were finally installed and inspected by the enforcement team last September."

The enforcement case is just one example of a busy year for the National Park's enforcement team.

Heather Lealan, Enforcement Lead for the Authority, said: "We have continued to undertake planning enforcement site visits through the lockdown while ensuring that we are Covid safe.

"The team have also continued to undertake statutory monitoring visits to Minerals and Waste sites to ensure compliance with planning conditions. We did 22 such visits in August and were pleased to find accordance with planning conditions across the vast majority of Minerals and Waste sites in the National Park."

Championing design excellence in early stages



Vicki Colwell, Principal Planning Officer, gives an update on developing design excellence for potential new residential development.

Earlier this year, the SDNPA undertook public consultation on a draft Design Brief for residential development at land at Old Malling Farm, Lewes.

The land is approximately 10 hectares of farmland, to the north of Lewes town centre, allocated for development as part of the South Downs Local Plan.

During the consultation that ran earlier this year, we received 67 responses, which were all considered by the Authority.

Sustainable transport methods, sustainable construction and parking, amongst others, were highlighted as key actions and passed on to the applicant. Following these changes being made, the Design Brief was approved in October 2020 and can be viewed in full here:

www.southdowns.gov.uk/old-malling-farm-design-brief/

The Design Brief establishes evidence, parameters and design principles for the detailed design of the site. It represents a positive and meaningful mechanism for delivering a landscape and ecosystem services led development, with an increased emphasis on sustainable construction and measures seeking avoidance and mitigation for the impacts of climate change.

Moving forward, the Design Brief will be an important consideration in the determination of any planning applications at the site.



The Design Brief masterplan for Old Malling Farm at Lewes.

Camping and Glamping Technical Advice Note

The Camping and Glamping Technical Advice Note (TAN) has been produced to help guide applicants when applying for planning permission for camping and glamping tourist accommodation.

The TAN should be read alongside the South Downs Local Plan and Partnership Management Plan.

When the TAN is adopted it will be a material consideration that will be taken into account by decision makers at the Authority and the host authorities when determining planning applications for camping and glamping.

We will be consulting on the Camping and Glamping TAN for four weeks from 12 January to 9 February 2021. The consultation includes our Statutory Consultees (including Town and Parish Councils), our Host Authorities, tourism specialists and members of our Agents' Forum. More information will be available on our website in due course.

Soft Sand Review update

West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are inviting feedback on proposed modifications to the Soft Sand Review.

This follows the examination hearings during August on the document, which sets out how the authorities have addressed the issue of soft sand supply – the need for soft sand, the supply strategy and the extraction sites.

The independent Planning Inspector has indicated that the Review needs to be modified to make the document 'sound' and suitable for adoption. These changes have been approved by the South Downs National Park Authority and West Sussex County Councillors. Stakeholders and members of the public are now being asked for their views on these modifications.

The consultation is available [here](#) and runs until 8 January.

Brownfield Land Register is now available to view

The Authority has updated and published its Brownfield Land Register 2020.

This lists brownfield sites in the National Park that may be suitable for residential development.

Planning Policy Manager Lucy Howard said: "It should be noted that the presence of a site on the register does not imply that planning permission would be granted for residential development. The brownfield register is a high-level assessment of potential housing availability."

Further details of the methodology and the Register are available [here](#)

It's wheely good news! New scooter track for children



Charlotte and Connie Cunningham at the scooter track

A new state-of-the art landscaped scooter track is giving hours of enjoyment and exercise to children in the great outdoors.

The track was unveiled earlier this autumn at Easebourne Community Space, an award-winning park that has been given a new lease of life over the past two years thanks to a tireless community effort.

The scooter track has been developed by Playsafe Playgrounds and is the latest in a series of improvements at the park, including new picnic benches, tree planting, new play equipment, a bandstand and barbecue pits.

Spearheaded by Easebourne Parish Council, the renovations have been made possible thanks to a range of grants, including £80,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from the South Downs National Park Authority. CIL funding is administered by the SDNPA and paid by developers as a means of supporting new community infrastructure.

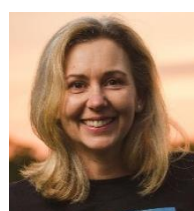
Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new scooter track, Jessica Riches, a Planning Officer who helps administer CIL funding for the SDNPA, said: "It's wonderful to be able to see this new facility being enjoyed by young people – out exercising in the fresh air at this beautiful setting. CIL funding can make a real difference to communities, improving people's quality of life. The transformation at Easebourne Community Space is a perfect example of this, showing how planning and the community can work hand-in-hand."

Last year Easebourne Community Space won the People's Choice Design Award from the South Downs National Park Authority. It was noted that the scheme was an "impressive mix of play area and habitat creation" and a fine example of the "power of using the National Park for health and well-being purposes".

Ian Milne, from Easebourne Parish Council, said: "This great enhancement to our much beloved Community Space and Play Park would not have been possible without the SDNPA CIL grant for which the whole Easebourne community, and especially the younger members of this Parish, are very grateful

Charlotte Cunningham, 10, who lives locally and has been enjoying using the track, said: "I love it!"

Section 106 funds benefit wide range of projects



Gill Welsman, Planning Project Management Officer, gives an update on communities benefiting from Section 106 contributions.

So far this financial year the South Downs National Park Authority has disbursed £405,563.24 to community groups, parishes and other authorities to support projects across the National Park. Projects funded include:

- Community Running Track – Petersfield
- Purchase of Blackmoor SSSI – Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
- Skatepark Drinking Fountain – Lewes
- Village Gateways, Foot Path Signs and Interpretation Boards - Greatham
- Bridleway Improvements – Rackham
- Delivery of Affordable Housing – East Hampshire District Council
- Tree Sculpture Carving – Horndean
- Town Centre Cycle Stands – Petersfield
- Petanque Court – Liss
- Car Park Resurfacing – Droxford
- Village Bench – Selborne
- Replacement Window - Worldham

Some projects funded by S106 contributions need parish councils to work closely with other infrastructure providers in order to deliver projects on the ground. One such project was the much needed bridleway improvement at Rackham in West Sussex. Parham Parish Council identified a need to improve the surface as the bridleway was impassable for much of the year, by liaising direct with the West Sussex PROW team they were able to obtain quotes and secure contractors, meaning that they are able to deliver this project to the required specification in the next few months.

A collaboration between Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council, Petersfield Town Council and the South Downs National Park Authority has enabled new cycle stands to be installed around Petersfield Town Centre in direct response to the Governments promotion

Key planning stats at a glance from last quarter



Appeals submitted to Planning Inspectorate	21
Appeals started	18
Appeals determined	24
Appeals successfully defended	21
Statutory submissions received	1,251
Statutory submissions determined	974
Neighbours notified	3,620
Representations received	1,516
Consultations issued	2,782
Conditions imposed	3,182
Enquiries for planning advice	308
Enforcement complaints received	211
Enforcement cases opened	173
Enforcement related site inspections	244
Enforcement notices served	2
Enforcement cases closed	154

(data from Q2 2020-2021)

The next **South Downs Agents'** Forum meeting will be held at 4pm on Wednesday, 17 March. The forum is for all agents, who regularly submit planning applications to the SDNPA and/or the host authorities. Please contact agentsforum@southdowns.gov.uk to book a place

Dates for the diary

The next **Planning Committee meetings** will be held on **21 January, 11 February and 11 March.**

All Planning Committee meetings are broadcast for public viewing through our [webcasting portal](#).

of cycling during the COVID pandemic. It is hoped that the additional 'parking' facilities will help support sustainable travel in and around the National Park during the pandemic, as well as leaving a longer term legacy for future generations.

With people being encouraged to use outdoor spaces more over the last few months, Liss Parish Council approached the National Park to secure funding for a new petanque court at the Liss Forest Recreation Ground following the loss of their previous facility. Work has begun on the court and it is hoped that the installation will not only provide all year round facilities but encourage new players to the game.

We are happy to report that projects funded by S106 contributions are still being delivered across the National Park. Completed projects this year include:

- Community Running Track – Petersfield
- ARC Trust SSSI Land Purchase – Whitehill
- Car Park Barrier – Chawton
- Town Centre Cycle Stands – Petersfield
- Heath Pond Bank Stabilisation & Play Area – Petersfield
- Outdoor Canopies – Midhurst Rother College
- Car Park Improvements – Buriton
- Timberyard Playground – Lewes

The extension to the existing canopied outdoor area at Midhurst Rother College has been a welcome addition to their outdoor space. Two new canopies with glass sides have extended the current



provision with glass sides being added along the entire structure. The project has given the college a much-improved versatile area that can be used in inclement weather as an outdoor classroom and as an extended dining facility.

The play area at Timberyard, Lewes has received a complete makeover thanks to S106 contributions, seeing old outdated equipment being replaced with new state-of-the-art equipment, including a sand pit with digger and new safety surfacing.

As well as supporting projects that are funded by S106 contributions our officers actively monitor the delivery of infrastructure previously secured through S106 Agreements. In addition to ensuring that obligations that protect the landscape, ecology and mitigate the impact of development are completed, the SDNPA is secure access routes by entering into permissive agreements and S25 agreements with landowners across the National Park.

As well as securing a permissive route at Swanborough, Lewes which links existing routes to the Egrets Way and a new footpath at Madehurst, SDNP Officers are currently finalising the installation of a new footpath in Petersfield linking the Hangars Way to new developments along the Causeway and into Petersfield.

Ten questions with... Katie Sharp



Three words that sum up your job in planning?

Collaboration, opportunities and variation

Okay, so what's your role at the National Park?

I am Development Management Officer. This role involves determining a wide range of planning applications around the National Park, my 'patch' is the Eastern end of the Park.

What appealed to you about working in planning?

No planning application is the same, which means that the diverse load is constantly challenging my knowledge and skills, and helping me further progress in my planning career.

Can you describe your typical day?

Since lockdown, my day usually begins by walking my dog Milo, then sitting down with a cup of tea and starting work which includes emails and report writing. I usually use lunchtime to run, cycle or do some yoga, which sets me up for focusing on an afternoon of work. My day ends with another dog walk, and after that I can finally put my feet up!

Best thing about working in planning for a National Park?

The best thing is getting to explore the National Park and visiting places you wouldn't get to see as a visitor. In addition to this, I get to work alongside an array of specialists who help broaden my knowledge in other subject areas.

What do you love about the South Downs National Park?

I love how varied and special the landscapes are across the whole of the National Park. Being out in these spaces helps with my mental wellbeing and satisfies my love for nature and the outdoors.

Currently reading/watching?

Reading: A Life Without Limits: A World Champion's Journey by Chrissie Wellington

Watching: The Mandalorian

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Any type of cake!

Who inspires you?

Sir David Attenborough. One of my first memories of Attenborough is watching Blue Planet, which kickstarted my love for nature. Ever since, I have been inspired by his work and his current work on climate change.

Describe your perfect day (when not working, of course!)

My days off are normally very active! So, it would have to be a long walk or run with my dog, followed by a café stop to eat lots of cake.

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And finally...



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P1 – Main image by Sam Moore

P5 left – Snowy landscape by Linda Barker

P8 left – Louis Manning

P9 left – Janet Gibbs