

## SDNPA – SDLMG Meeting Minutes

Chanctonbury Meeting Room, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, GU29  
9DH 13:00 – 15:00 29 May 2015

### Present:

Margaret Paren – Chair (MP)  
Trevor Beattie (TB)  
Andrew Lee (AL)  
Phil Belden (PB)  
Tim Slaney (TS)  
Angie Blowman (AB)  
David Doxford (DD)  
Chloe Light (CL)

Mike Tristram (MT)  
Alison Tingley (AT)  
Megan Cameron (MC)  
Robin Edwards (RE)  
Simon Ward (SW)  
Christopher Passmore (CP)  
David Taylor (DT)

### Apologies:

William Woolmer  
Nigel Clutton  
David Ashcroft  
Conal Stewart

James Cooper  
Andrew Thomas  
Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

## 1. Welcome & Minutes of last meeting

Margaret Paren welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 15 September 2014, were discussed and found to be accurate.

## 2. Food and Drink Initiatives

### 2.1 Draft SDNPA Policy

AL introduced the Food and Drink initiatives and explained the draft policy document went to Policy and Programme Committee last October. This was sent out for discussion and feedback and focuses on what the SDNPA is doing, as set out by the Partnership Management Plan.

### 2.2 Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) Project

DD provided a hand-out on the South Downs National Park – Food Enterprise Zone Pathfinder Pilot Dairy Farm Local Development Order (LDO). This is the initial consultation that has been circulated to landowners. The hand-out explains how you can get involved by completing a short online questionnaire which DD encouraged. The closing date for comments is 16 June 2015. The 9 June sees a FEZ Stakeholder Workshop at Plumpton College from 11:30-14:00. This is an interactive exercise to help businesses; five farmers are currently signed up with a further twenty showing interest. Once the consultation stage is complete the FEZ aims to be up and running by March 2017, DEFRA has awarded £50,000 to the pathfinder project. SW asked whether this type of project could be extended beyond diary farmers. RE asked how many diary farms and why this is the focus? TB responded explaining that if the original project was broader, it most likely would have not been approved. TS added that types rather than geography are more helpful. AT asked the content of the questionnaire as to whether it is diary focused? AT went on to ask about planning conditions on farm shops and the level of non local produce that is permitted to be sold.

### 2.3 Other initiatives

AB provided an update on behalf of Conal Stewart. The Food Portal is launching in June. There are currently three launch events planned; 22 June at Cowdray which will promote the portal to the

media with a further two “soft” launches; Wallops Wood, Hampshire on the 8 June and Rathfinney, East Sussex on the 29 June. The website [www.southdowns.food.org](http://www.southdowns.food.org) promotes food and drink and enables retailers to search and source local produce. It is free for businesses to register and AB invited the SDLMG to attend the launch events, asking that anyone who wishes to attend emails her directly at [angie.blowman@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:angie.blowman@southdowns.gov.uk) **ACTION:** AB will ask CS to liaise with AT to promote the portal via SDLMG. AT suggested having the website available at the SDLMG General Summer meeting on the 24 June 2015 at Coombes.

### **3. Local Plan**

TS gave a presentation to include eco-systems services and conceptual spatial diagram. The SDNPA are producing the first ever National Plan. As one of the largest planning authorities; the SDNPA are currently working with 15 other Local Authorities in order to create one plan. TS discussed the draft policies of particular interest and asked AT to circulate them within the SDLMG for their feedback. Consultation will run from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Submission of the Local Plan is scheduled for autumn 2016, with examination in public early 2017, the Local Plan could be adopted mid 2017. CIL will be adopted about 1 year in advance of the Local Plan and will be consulted at the same time as the Local Plan.

MT thanked the SDNPA for thinking up the approach. TS explained that the success of the Local Plan is that of the special qualities and that they are better than what they are now. MP stressed the need for positive and negative feedback. In particular views are sought as to whether or not a policy is needed on redundant farm buildings that are not an historic asset.

There was some discussion about the policy relating to whole estate plans, it was agreed that some guidance would be helpful as to what is expected of these and levels of privacy.

### **4. Next steps on NIA**

PB provided a short update on the next steps of the NIA, explaining the NIA project was a DEFRA pilot, which is now complete. The facilitation fund – landscape scale encourages farmers to work together. Meeting with Sir John Lawton in June. Response received from Arun and Adur, only 1 other National Park; the Peak District, replied. CP thanked the NPA for their help in putting the bid together.

### **5. Countryside Stewardship funding gap**

MT sent a letter on behalf of the SDLMG in January regarding funding issues. AL expressed how he is interested in hearing from the Country Land Association (CLA) as the money pot will be small. MC told how Natural England (NE) is currently sending out invites and to look at the target statement, advising those to register their interest via the website as soon as possible.

### **6. Broadband**

AB provided an update on Broadband since the last meeting in September. The programme is led by BT and County Councils, aiming for 90% across the park by 2017. Two pilot projects have launched with one in Hampshire, the other in West Sussex. The Hampshire Innovation Fund pilot was successful in receiving a £1.2 million grant. This aims to deliver super fast Broadband by a range of technologies. The pilot is aimed to complete by September 2017. AB and DD are part of the stakeholders group. The second pilot is Broadband Rural Pilot Coast 2 Capital. The majority of this funding is focused primarily on high-speed digital, high growth digital around ultrafast broadband at 100mbps.

### **7. AOB**

SW asked about the impact of changes on the political landscape. RE mentioned Right to Buy, TB asked if there was anything he could be referred to and mentioned that DEFRA's precise portfolios

are still to be confirmed. MT asked whether there are any appointment vacancies. MP explained there are currently two vacancies available, these replace Jeremy Leggett and Diane Kershaw, the vacancies are advertised September/October. MT suggested keeping SDLMG in the loop in order to publicise to their Members via networks.

There are a number of major infrastructure projects that could impact on the special qualities of the SDNP if the second runway at Gatwick is given the go ahead, Gatwick- Brighton railway and M24 road links, in addition to the proposed improvements along the A27.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

24 June 2015 SDLMG General Summer Meeting

AT and CL discussed the need to bring the next Liaison Meeting Forward to work around the preferred options stage of the Local Plan.

There being no further business MP closed the meeting at 14:57.

DRAFT