

**SDNPA : SDLMG : SDN Liaison Meeting**  
**Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, Midhurst, GU29 9DH**  
**Wednesday 25 April 2018**  
**10:00-11:30**



**Present:**

Margaret Paren – Chair of SDNPA, Andrew Lee – Director of Countryside, Policy and Management, Jackie Nicholls – Executive Assistant to Andrew Lee, William Wolmer – Chair of SDLMG, Alison Tingley Liaison Officer SDLMG, David Ashcroft, Nigel Brown, Andrew Elms, David Johnson, Robin Milner-Elland, David Taylor, John Templeton, Mike Tristram and Simon Ward.

Lucy Howard – Planning Policy Manager, SDNPA [Item 3]

Anne Rehill – Performance and Project Manager, SDNPA [Item 4]

**Apologies:**

Trevor Beattie – CEO SDNPA

**1. Welcome**

Margaret Paren welcomed attendees. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 November 2017, were found to be accurate. Matters arising:

- Health and Wellbeing – as part of the Partnership Management Plan Review, Health and Wellbeing will be an outcome in the revised document.
- Arundel A27 – an announcement as to the preferred route should be made soon.
- M3J9 – the SDNPA are in dialogue with key stakeholders and we have a meeting this week.

**2. Farming the Future: SDNP Pilot Scheme EOI and Defra – Andrew Lee**

Andrew Lee confirmed that the SDNP had submitted an EOI to Defra, which had been well received. Defra invited organisations that had submitted EOIs to a meeting in Crewe on 09 April 2018 for a roundtable discussion; the meeting was the first in a series of meetings over the coming weeks and months. Defra will be bringing together evidence and research on new and innovative mechanisms and investigating options for funding tests, trials and pilots. Defra know that the SDNP are keen to be involved in tests, trials and pilots.

**Health and Harmony Command Paper** – National Parks are preparing a joint response to this paper, which will be submitted through National Parks England (NPE); the deadline is 08 May 2018. There are many encouraging ideas in the Paper, such as: the adoption of the public good for public funding model, with natural capital at its heart; and the desire to move towards an outcome-based system for the next Environment Land Management schemes (ELMs) and for greater ownership by farmers / land managers in the schemes in which they participate. However, Andrew Lee explained that with the number of existing schemes coming to an end there are concerns farmers and land owners are on a 'cliff-edge'; statistics have been passed onto Defra. In addition, Margaret Paren reported that NPE have taken a decision to write to Michael Gove, explaining the impact of schemes finishing – other bodies have also written to express concerns. Furthermore, NPE met with AONBs to discuss how we can work with them.

William Wolmer commented that it is still possible to lock-in and have a 5 year agreement with schemes. Andrew Lee added that the SDNPA have appointed a Farm Officer, Bruce Fowkes, who will be able to assist farmers. **Action:** Jackie to circulate ToR for the Farming Officer role. A discussion followed around Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) schemes.

In response to being asked if the SDNPA would be responding to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation, Margaret Paren confirmed that a wider National Parks England response would be submitted, and pointed out that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty can also respond.

### **3. Standing Items**

#### Agricultural Planning Application call-ins [Q4] – Andrew Lee

Andrew explained that the data we discussed at this meeting included all applications, not just call-ins; indeed, only one application in Q4 relates to a call-in and that was approved. With regard to other applications, the data does not show any notable patterns. Out of a total of 61 applications, 89% were either: approved, an application was not needed, were withdrawn, there was not an objection or was a temporary application.

#### Local Plan – Lucy Howard

Lucy reported that the Local Plan will be submitted for examination this week. The timing of the examination is unknown, but is likely to be sometime between July and the autumn.

Changes are being made in response to comments made. Lucy advised that up-to-date information will be posted onto the SDNPA website, which will comprise of a Pre-Submission SDLP and a Schedule of Changes to the SDLP. All representations and comments made in response to the publication of the Pre-submission Local Plan will also be made available on the SDNPA website.

Some sites and supporting evidence will be seen by the Inspector, but it is up to the Inspector whether opportunities for stakeholders to make representations is given.

### **4. Partnership Management Plan update – Anne Rehill**

Anne explained that the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) is a long-term vision / requirement for all National Parks. The current Plan runs from 2014 – 2019 and is currently under review. The review process started a year ago and is being carried out in partnership with the South Downs Partnership, of which the South Downs Land Managers are a key stakeholder; other stakeholders will also contribute to the review. A Member working group has also been set-up.

The key stages of the review are:

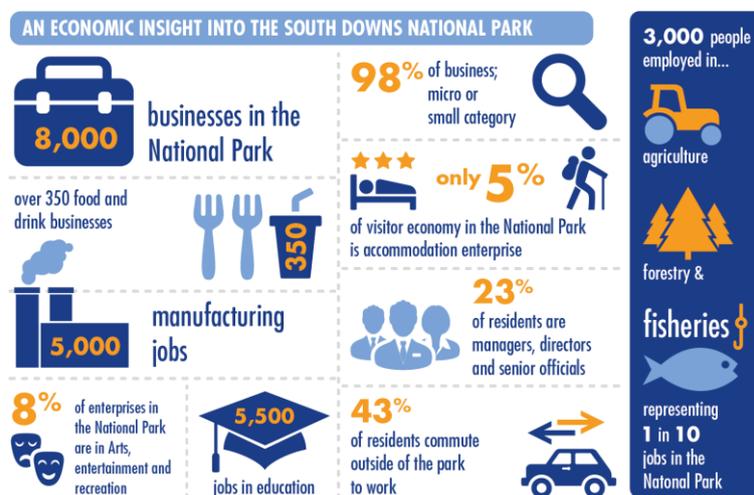
- Celebration – review delivery; celebrate success; understand barriers.
- Review – review evidence; look at external drivers for change; review existing delivery framework.
- Refinement – identify priority areas; make changes; develop new delivery plan.
- Delivery – SDNPA strategies – projects; partner commitments – projects; monitoring and reporting.

There are eight convenient ways of chunking up the work of the PMP and the teams working in these areas are currently in the review / refine stages. The eight areas are: Landscape & Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Economy, Tourism, Volunteering, Education, Walking and Cycling and Health and Wellbeing.

It is hoped that draft priority actions will be developed by September; there will be a period of stakeholder engagement up to December; a final plan by January and publication on the website by June 2019. This is a provisional timescale and subject to change.

## 5. **Economic Profile of the SDNP – Andrew Lee**

We have now published the Economic Profile of the South Downs National Park, which gives us a robust evidence base, not only for the SDNPA but for all our partners, stakeholders and rural businesses who can contribute to a sustainable South Down National Park. Details from the infographic below were shared:



Initial thoughts from attendees included: productivity should be the focus; and useful on the margins of the Park; the Park and coast strip need to be more engaged with each other.

## 6. **AOB**

### 1. Whole Estate Plans (WEPs) update – Andrew Lee

There are currently 18 WEPs in the pipeline and four endorsed. The four endorsed are: Newton Valence, Wiston, Iford and Highfield School. On 24 April, Members and officers carried out a site visit at Glynde Estates, which is in the early stages of developing a WEP. A concern was raised as to whether there might be pressure to produce glossy documents when producing a WEP, but it was pointed-out that the SDNPA are interested in assets, the key is that the WEP demonstrates enhancement to the Park.

### 2. 25 year Environment Plan – Margaret Paren.

Margaret stated that in the recently published 25 Year Environment Plan an action to commission a 21<sup>st</sup> Century ‘Hobhouse’ Review of National Parks and AONBs is put forward. The SDNP do not have any aspirations to increase the boundaries of the park, but like to work more closely with AONBs.

### 3. Health and Wellbeing – Mike Tristram

Mike advised the group that Sompting Parish Council have formed a community focus group to encourage the community to see the national park as a way of improving health and wellbeing. Should the park wish to use the focus group to help with any evidence-base, then Tom Parry, Lead Ranger, knows the details.

### 4. Appointment of new members – Alison Tingley

Alison asked if more notice could be given when Member positions arise. Vacancies for Members who are appointed nationally are placed on the SDNPA website as well as in the wider media. Margaret took the opportunity to explain that currently there is a vacancy for a nationally appointed Member; 12 applications have been received for this post and shortlisting will be carried out tomorrow. The final say on who is appointed is a ministerial decision, which can take some time to finalise.

### 5. Branding bus services – John Templeton

John Templeton raised concerns that branded services between the gateway stations in the National Park should remain a priority. Currently Stagecoach has already branded services to Midhurst on the service 60 from Chichester and Service 1 from Worthing; in addition the service 70 from Guildford / Haslemere provides a good link from the north. There remains the need to safeguard and improve service 92 from Petersfield to Midhurst so the heart of the National Park is linked to gateway stations from all four directions. Service 54 is also an important link across the National Park between the gateway stations of Chichester and Petersfield and is already included in the SDNP leaflet of iconic bus routes across the Park.

- Andrew Lee advised of a new fund – Smart Transport
- East Sussex County Council's Accessibility Strategy – an aim is to improve access to services by providing greater travel choices.

**Meeting closed 11:30**

---