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Spring 2020 Newsletter

We hope you are all managing to stay safe and are coping with the lockdown. The torrential rains of the autumn and winter are now a distant memory, and the spring has been filled with bird song. The past few months has, however, had a profound effect on both our personal lives and businesses, adding to the uncertainties of Brexit and upcoming major changes in the countryside

Needless to say there have been no liaison meetings between the South Downs Land Managers and the National Park Authority. However, as lockdown is beginning to ease, I thought that it would be useful to provide a quick round up.

South Downs National Park Authority Rangers to resume activities

All SDNPA offices are currently closed and staff are working from home. They can be contacted by email or mobile phone. Some Committee meetings have been cancelled, where they are going ahead, they are doing so virtually. If you are unsure who to contact there is useful information on their [website](#). The most relevant departments are likely to be [Countryside Policy and Management](#) Directorate and [Planning Directorate](#)

Following the most recent Government guidance, the Authority Rangers have now resumed some services. Initially, work will be focused on monitoring the situation across the National Park and undertaking some limited urgent maintenance and management work. All work and tasks will follow the necessary health and safety, and 2m social distancing measures. All volunteering continues to be suspended as many of their volunteers fall into the "at risk" category.

Planning applications continue to be registered and where applicable decisions are being

made under delegated powers by the Director of Planning. For full details of how the Authority is operating see their website: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/> There are also some useful links to business information and an interactive map of local food producers.

They are keen to know where support and/or collaboration could be of benefit. To feedback you can do so either directly to your [local Ranger](#) or by replying to the Liaison Officer.

Revised Partnership Management Plan

The Partnership Management Plan sets out the overarching five-year strategy for the management of the South Downs National Park. Launched by the South Downs National Park Authority, at the end of April, the Plan aims to bring together environmental organisations, land managers, farmers, community organisations, businesses and volunteers.

The Plan is the single most important policy document for the National Park. It consists of a vision, three linked strategic themes and 10 key outcomes which set where they would like to get to by 2050. The themes and outcomes work together and have equal importance. Tackling climate change, helping nature flourish, supporting farming and the rural economy, creating a National Park for all and providing a green health and wellbeing service are among the priorities for the next five years. Click to see more information on the [Management Plan](#)

Other News

Forestry Commission South East Deer Adviser

Some of you will remember the talk that Jamie Cordery gave to the SDLM AGM some years ago on Deer Management. The advisory role has now been taken on by the Forestry Commission, his new contact details are: mobile 07584274086 email: jamie.cordery@forestrycommission.gov.uk

British Woodland Survey

This is an important **survey** on the state of our woodlands and how managers and advisers are reacting to threats and opportunities to them. The Survey has been funded by the Forestry Commission and is organised by Sylva, supported by 15 member organisations. It takes about 30 minutes to complete and is open until the end of June.

Basic Payment Scheme Deadline extended

The deadline for submitting BPS claims has been extended to 15 June.

Draft Waste and Minerals Local Plan Revised Policies Document - Consultation

East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are proposing changes to their adopted Waste and Minerals Local Plan (WMLP). These changes are set out in the draft Waste and Minerals Local Plan Revised Policies Document, which has been published for consultation. The consultation period runs from 11th May to 3rd August 2020. The consultation draft plan and a full set of supporting documentation can be found at their online consultation portal

<http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk>.

Representations can be made via their online consultation portal

<http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk>

emailing wasteandmineralsdf@eastsussex.gov.uk or by post to the following address:
RPD Consultation 2020, Planning Policy & Development Management, Communities Economy and Transport, East Sussex County Council, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE.



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