

Summer 2015 Newsletter

Welcome back to our latest newsletter. Summer seems to have gone from one extreme to another, hopefully by now you will have managed to finish harvesting. Despite the vagaries of the weather I do hope that you will find time to look at the South Downs Local Plan, for which the public consultation started on 2nd September. As always, if you have any issues or queries that you would like raised with the South Downs National Park Authority please contact your Liaison Officer, Alison Tingley on sdlm@southdownsland.com

Dates for your diary

Local Plan Consultation: The public consultation on the South Downs Local Plan Preferred Options will run from 2nd September to 28th October 2015.

SDLM Executive Committee The next meeting will be held on 3rd November 2015 in Midhurst.

SDNPA News in brief

- Bracken spraying was carried out on all key heathland sites in the National Park. Rangers and volunteers tackled invasive plants such as ragwort on Chapel Common and Himalayan balsam along the River Rother.
- Fast-track assessments on non-designated chalk grassland sites within the Central Downs NIA area have been organized by Rangers.
- Rangers and volunteers assisted a landowner to install a deer fence in an ancient woodland near Winchester.
- Evidence has been found of baby water vole droppings were found on the latrine survey floats on the River Meon at the release sites – great confirmation that the reintroduction programme is proving successful.
- Rangers carried out vegetation control on Beacon Hill SSSI/SAM near Harting in West Sussex. Working in partnership with the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and European partners, work has continued to develop an international project to conserve the threatened grey partridge.
- The Heathland Reunited application has been submitted to HLF to create bigger, better and more joined up heathland in the National Park.
- In support of the Take the Lead Campaign which promotes responsible dog walking, rangers carried out 12 patrols at dog walking 'hot spots' to hand out information and talk to dog owners.
- Working with the Sussex Biological Records Service the SDNPA have successfully mapped areas of capacity, demand and service flows for the Ecosystems Services provided by the National Park, such as carbon sequestration, climate regulation, pollination, water regulation and access/recreation. This information will feed into the evidence base for their projects and the Local Plan.
- Brighton Chalk Management Partnership has been set up between the SDNPA, Southern Water, Environment Agency, Brighton & Hove City Council, Natural England and the University of Brighton. The project will deliver groundwater quality improvements across the Brighton Chalk block, leading to compliance with the Water Framework Directive and increased security of public water supply.



Meeting updates

SDLM Summer meeting

Members received presentations on the Arun & Rother Connections project and the South Downs Local Plan, followed by a lively discussion: Copies of the presentations can be found on the SDLM website at: <http://www.southdownsland.com/Meeting>

Dairy Fez Meeting

Landowners joined other interested parties at a meeting at Plumpton College organised by the SDNPA on how to take forward the Food Enterprise Zone Dairy Pathfinder. Emphasis was made on the need for simplicity and clarity. The SDNPA were urged to make Permitted Development rights more widely understood and understand farming businesses in the context of planning applications. Further notes from the meeting can be found at: <http://www.southdownsland.com/Meeting>

Planning update

South Downs National Park Local Plan Preferred Options public consultation will run from 2nd September to 28th October. Members of the SDLM are encouraged to submit comments both in support of policies and where necessary against. Please copy any submissions to sdlm@southdownsland.com so that they can be incorporated where appropriate into the SDLM organizational submission. The potential of farms to diversify and develop in the future will depend on getting these policies right, so the more of you that comment the better. The Draft Local Plan can be found at <https://consult.southdowns.gov.uk/consult.ti/localplanpo/consultationHome> The Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule is also available for consultation at <https://consult.southdowns.gov.uk/consult.ti/cildcs/consultationHome>

Project updates

Food & Drink Portal

The South Downs Food and Drink Portal is now up and running. You can visit the site to find a wealth of tasty produce from across the National Park and surrounding area. The site includes over 200 businesses, including farmers markets, farm shops, pubs and restaurants, food festivals and places to enjoy quality local produce. If you produce, process or sell food or drink products within the South Downs area you can register for free by going to <http://www.southdownsfood.org/>



Broadband

SDNPA are supporting the BDUK roll out in programmes and actively seeking ways of filling in parts of the last 5% by accessing Local Enterprise Partnership funding. For more details contact: david.doxford@southdowns.gov.uk or see https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/pp_2015Dec16_Agenda-Item-14-Update-on-Broadband-and-Opportunity.pdf

Other news

So much more than the view

The Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks England have published a new report outlining the value of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. National Parks and AONBs are home to over 2.3m people, They have a combined GA of £20bn, 260m people visit them spending in excess of £6bn and public spending on AONBs and National Parks is less than £1 per person per year. The full report can be found at

http://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/578667/So-much-more-pdf-with-web-navigation-bar.pdf



Grants for Landowners

LEADER

Funding has now been confirmed for the four Leader Local Action groups that cover the South Downs and are due to be launched on 14th October. Funding is aimed at supporting the following activities in rural areas:

- Increasing farm productivity
- Forestry production
- Business & farm diversification
- Tourism
- Cultural & heritage activity
- Provision of rural services

Contacts details:

Fieldfare - East Hampshire and Winchester Districts kbrown@winchester.gov.uk

Sussex Downs and Coastal Plain - Chichester, Arun and Hayling Island - rdpeleader@westsussex.gov.uk

Central Sussex - Horsham, Lewes and Mid Sussex - rdpeleader@westsussex.gov.uk

WARR Partnership - Wealden and Rother - don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk

Arun and Rother Connections – Linking Landscape and Community (ARC) Grants.

The ARC project is very keen to engage with landowners on a number of issues / opportunities – e.g. habitat restoration / tree planting, invasive species removal, funding opportunities. As well as being able to provide advice they have a community grant scheme where landowners (and community groups etc) can apply for up to £1000 of funding to implement a range of habitat / wildlife / access improvements. More info about the community grants fund can be found at <http://arunwesternstreams.org.uk/resources>.

You are receiving this newsletter as a member of the South Downs Land Managers. If you would like to receive it via email, along with event notifications or no longer wish to receive it, please email sdlm@southdownsland.com