

## Spring 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the South Downs Land Managers Spring Newsletter, particularly to those NFU and CLA members who are new to the SDLM. In recognition of the fact that the South Downs is owned and managed by many individuals, businesses and public bodies, the SDLM represents the land management community to the South Downs National Park Authority. Our purpose is to ensure that the NPA takes land management into consideration when making policy decisions.

### Dates for your diary:

**South Downs Land Managers Executive Committee & AGM – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017** at the South Downs Centre, Midhurst at 12.00 noon. **Any nominations for Executive Committee membership should be sent to Alison Tingley [sdlm@southdownsland.com](mailto:sdlm@southdownsland.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

**South Downs Land Managers Summer Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> June** at Ridgeview Estate Winery Ditchling Common, East Sussex, BN6 8TP 16.00hrs. Numbers will be limited so booking is **essential**. Further details to follow.

## SDNPA News in brief

**Southdowns National Park Authority newsletter:** The NPA are now producing a monthly newsletter with a variety of articles and opportunities to ask questions. To sign up go to <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/join-the-newsletter/>

**South Downs National Park Trust:** The SDNPA are currently in the process of setting up an independent charity. The Trust will help fund delivery of the Partnership Management Plan working with community organisations for the benefit of the National Park and the people for whom it was created.

**Communicating South Downs:** This is a new resource available to businesses and communities in the South Downs. It enables them to add value, by using the stories of the South Downs National Park. Examples are provided in a variety of different ways as to how the stories can be related to businesses, communities or services. Resources include access to their shared identity. <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/communicating-south-downs/>

## Meeting updates

**Liaison Meeting:** At the last liaison meeting discussions focused on Brexit and the forthcoming Environment Green Paper. The SDNPA outlined how they intend to put forward a proposal to Defra to support at least one pilot in the National Park to



demonstrate how a new agri-environment scheme might work. Minutes of the meeting can be found at <http://www.southdownsland.com/Meeting>

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## Planning update

**Community Infrastructure Levy:** The CIL charging structure was adopted by the SDNPA in April this year. It is primarily relevant to all residential development except affordable housing\*. The National Park area is divided into two zones: Zone 1 covers the main towns of Lewes, Liss, Midhurst, Petersfield and Petworth and has a charge of £150 per square metre. Zone 2 covers the rest of the National Park area and has a charge of £200 psm. All other uses, such as employment development including hotels, and residential institutions, are zero rated, except for large format retail for which a charge of £120 psm is applied.

\*Agricultural dwellings do not qualify as “affordable housing” under CIL regulations but may be classed as “self-build”. The same applies to converting/ re-using farm buildings whether for permanent occupation or holiday lets.

A CIL calculator is available on the SNPA website to indicate the CIL liability of a proposed development. It can be found at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/cil-charging-schedule-related-policies/>

**South Downs Local Plan:** The SDLP has reached its preferred options stage which is due to be published in September/October 2017, followed by a formal Pre-Submission Consultation. It is estimated that submission to the Secretary of State will be in February 2018 and adoption in July 2018.

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## Project updates

**Take the Lead:** In a bid to promote responsible dog walking the NPA has recently released a series of videos entitled Take the Lead. There are three videos which may be of particular interest to landowners: a general one on responsible dog walking, one that focuses particularly on dogs and livestock and another on the importance of picking up dog mess. These can be viewed via our website on the Noticeboard page. Also available to landowners to hand out to people walking on your land are printed leaflets, window stickers and dog passports.

**Heathlands Re-united:** Less than 1 per cent of heathland remains in the National Park and what is there is fragmented, reducing the diversity of plants and animals that make heaths both interesting and scientifically important. Ambitious work to restore and reconnect areas began in 2016 as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded project, Heathlands Re-united. Led by the South Downs National Park Authority, the aim is to create wildlife corridors forming an area of heathland greater than 1,200 football pitches over a five year period, working on 41 sites with 10 partners.

The project is funded by partner contributions and a £1.44 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The total project value is £2.37 million. This will aid heathland management which includes bare ground creation (60% of heathland species rely on bare ground during some stage of their life cycle) and scrub removal.



There are also a series of educational events and activities that are taking place across the project area. [Find out more](https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/heathland/heathlands-reunited/) <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/heathland/heathlands-reunited/>

**Secrets of the High Woods:** Following the successful LIDAR project, results of which can be seen on the SDNPA website, guidelines have been produced to help landowners undertaking forestry work. These can be downloaded from <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/discover/heritage/secrets-of-the-high-woods/forestry-work-and-guidelines/>. Forestry management is estimated to contribute £22.8m to the local economy, for free woodland management advice tailored to your objectives contact [andrew.player@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.player@southdowns.gov.uk). He can also put you in touch with local experts from Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trusts.

**South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative (SDFBI)** Set up in 2014 the SDFBI provides valuable data on farmland bird species within the South Downs. Skylarks, linnets and yellowhammers proved to be most numerous last year, whilst lapwing, corn bunting and grey partridge are still very range restricted. If you are interested in taking part in this years survey visit [www.sdfarmbirds.com/](http://www.sdfarmbirds.com/)



## Other news

### South Downs Food & Drink

Over 100 local food and drink businesses participated in the South Downs Food & Drink Spring Event, hosted at the stunning new Hepworths Brewery in Pulborough on 24 April.

Sussex-based Natural Partnerships CIC organised the event to launch their new

Local Food Detective, a free service to hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs based in the South Downs region to help them build their appeal to foodie tourists.

The project was awarded a grant from the new Government 'Championing British Food Tourism' scheme in November and is a simple technical tool attached to the [Southdownsfood.org](http://Southdownsfood.org) online local food directory, which features the best food shops, places to eat and events where people can eat, buy and enjoy local produce. [www.southdownsfood.org/local-food-detective](http://www.southdownsfood.org/local-food-detective)

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