

South Downs Land Managers



Summer 2014 Newsletter

Welcome to our latest newsletter. It has been a busy 6 months. Below is a synopsis of what has been going on and notice of some upcoming events. If you have any issues that you would like raised with the South Downs National Park Authority please contact your Liaison Officer Alison Tingley on sdlm@southdownsland.com

Meeting updates

Broadband

SDNPA are working with Broadband Vantage Ltd and Smiths Gore to analyse the current position of BDUK Broadband roll out within rural areas of the National Park and how this might be extended, including funding opportunities. The SDLM were invited along with key landowners to consider partnership opportunities to extend the rollout of superfast broadband. For more information contact angie.blowman@southdowns.gov.uk

SDLM - SDNPA Liaison Meeting

Members of the SDLM Executive Committee met with Senior staff and the Chairman of the NPA in early May. Among the things discussed were Planning and the SDLM response to the Local Plan and CIL charging consultation. The NPA are keen to hear of any instances where planning agency agreements with the Local Authorities are not providing a satisfactory service. If you have examples, please provide details to sdlm@southdownsland.com. Other items discussed were SCF grants; progressing the Partnership Management Plan; NIA Framework contract review and Broadband. For minutes of the meeting go to <http://www.southdownsland.com/meetings.php>

SDLM Summer Meeting 2014

The SDLM Summer Meeting was held at the new SDNPA HQ in Midhurst. Lead members of staff introduced four projects which the NPA were keen to get advice and input from land managers. These are outlined briefly below. Copies of each of the presentations are available on the SDLM website under General Meetings 11th June 2014 <http://www.southdownsland.com/meetings.php>. The presentations were followed by discussion sessions.

Payments for Ecosystem Services: Chris Manning outlined work to set up a pilot to lever in new income streams from water companies in order to pay for ecosystem services.

Local Food & Drink: Kat Hale introduced Paula Seager and Hilary Knight from Natural Partnerships CIC who are developing a South Downs Food and Drink Portal. Discussions centred around criteria for inclusion and the area that should be covered.

Forestry Partnership: Nina Williams updated members on progress in mapping woodlands and identifying priority woodlands to target advice. She also outlined business training for forestry enterprises and the business database that has been developed on the My Forest website and potential sources of funding such as NELMs, LEADER, Farming & Forestry Improvement Schemes.

Take the Lead Campaign: Nick Stewart set out the key approaches that have been used in the SDNPA's responsible dog walking campaign - Take the Lead. To watch the video go to: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/enjoying/could-you-and-your-dog-be-the-voice-of-responsible-dog-walking-in-the-south-downs>

Planning

SDLM Response to the South Downs Local Plan

SDLM considered their response to the Local Plan at the Executive Committee meeting on 30th April. The main points raised were:

- that development should not have to 'meet' or 'promote the purposes of designation'. Development should be permitted provided that it is 'not in conflict' with the purposes and 'will not harm' the special qualities;
- a simpler and more flexible approach to planning consent (eg prior notification) be proposed where improvements to the thermal efficiency of buildings are in line with proposed guidelines (issue 10);
- agricultural and forestry workers dwellings should be exempt from any threshold that may be set for the contribution towards affordable housing, as it is providing a similar need (issue 32 c);
- farm diversification policies were welcomed but SDLM urged the SDNPA to adopt a flexible approach to the sale of local produce in farm shops following FARMA guidelines.

For more information on the Local Plan and other planning policy news go to www.southdowns.gov.uk/planningpolicy To see the full response go to <http://www.southdownsland.com/buy.php>

SDLM Response to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Fundamental concerns were raised by the SDLM at the collection of CIL by the SDNPA as they are not the authority that are responsible for providing or maintaining services such as schools and roads, which CIL is designed to fund. Concerns were also raised at the timing of the introduction of the charges, prior to the Local Plan being in place. The SDLM argued that agricultural workers dwellings should be exempt from rural CIL charges of £200/ square metre. On a more positive note zero rating of agricultural development was welcomed.

Joint Minerals Local Plan

Work on the new Joint Minerals Local Plan has started gathering technical evidence. The evidence is being set out in a series of Background Papers, which will form the basis of discussions at an engagement event on **Tuesday 8th July** between 13.00 and 16.30 at The South Downs Centre, Midhurst. The Background Papers will be available on line and circulated to attendees.

Through the engagement event WSCC and the SDNPA are seeking feedback to:

- Check information, to ensure that the Authorities knowledge and understanding of minerals issues is up-to-date and robust; and
- Identify potential issues, problems or concerns relating to the working of minerals in West Sussex.

If you would like to attend the event please contact the WSCC Planning and Transport Policy Team on 01243 642118 or email mwdf@westsussex.gov.uk. For directions to the South Downs Centre please see the SDNPA website www.southdowns.gov.uk.

Gypsy & Traveller Sites

Peter Brett Associates have been appointed by Winchester City Council, East Hampshire District Council and the SDNPA to identify potential Gypsy and traveller sites in the Hampshire part of the National Park. The first stage in this process they are seeking views on potential sites and on their proposed methodology. For more information contact Sharon Jefferies at sjefferies@peterbrett.com

Funding

LEADER Funding 2015-20

LEADER funding has provided more than £4m of grants to farm, horticultural and rural businesses as well as community projects in the National Park over recent years. Projects supported have included:

- the purchase of equipment and development of premises to support business growth
- farm diversification and modernisation
- forestry and woodland enterprises
- community shops, local food and produce and other rural community facilities.

Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs) are now consulting on priorities for the next round of Leader funding and are seeking input from land managers. Details of the forthcoming WSCC consultation events on **4th and 8th July** can be found on the SDLM website. <http://www.southdownsland.com/noticeboard.php> Further information for Hampshire events will be posted when available.

Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive – Ofgem

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (Domestic RHI) is a government financial incentive to promote the use of renewable heat. Switching to heating systems that use naturally replenished energy can help the UK reduce its carbon emissions. People who join the scheme and stick to its rules, receive quarterly payments for seven years for the amount of clean, green renewable heat their system produces.

The scheme is open to anyone who can meet the joining requirements. It's for households both off and on the gas grid. People off mains gas are likely to have the most potential to save on fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions.

The Renewable Heat Incentive has two schemes - Domestic and Non-Domestic. They have separate tariffs, joining conditions, rules and application processes.

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-renewable-heat-incentive/about-domestic-renewable-heat-incentive>

Energy Efficiency Grant available for SMEs

Low Carbon Workspaces helps small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) identify opportunities to reduce energy usage by offering a match funded grant of up to £5,000 to help pay for the installation of energy efficiency solutions. To claim the full grant of £5,000 the total project cost must be £13,000 or more. To find out more details and apply, visit: <http://www.lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk/>

SDNPA Update

The South Downs National Park Authority have now moved into their new Headquarters. The refurbished Grade II listed buildings, which double as a community hub, have been restored to the highest possible level of sustainability - BREEAM 'Excellent'. Staff who were previously distributed across office space in five buildings in Petersfield and Midhurst are now located here.

The new postal address is: South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH. Telephone 0300 303 1053

Functionally operational already, the South Downs Centre will officially open to the public on **Sunday 27 July** at a special Open Day. To find out more about the Open Day and to book a tour of the South Downs Centre please visit their webpage: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/enjoying/events/south-downs-centre-open-day>

Because of the size of the Park Area offices are located at: Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Stanmer Park, Singleton and Midhurst Depot.

Final Reminder - Membership Renewals

I would be grateful if any outstanding invoices could be paid by the end of the month. To make it easier to match payments to invoices please can you put the invoice number on the back of your cheque. If you would rather pay by Standing

Order in future, or if you require a duplicate invoice, please contact Alison by email sdlm@southdownsland.com for a form.

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the South Downs Land Management Group.

If you would like to receive by email either contact Alison Tingley on sdlmg@southdownsland.com or register via our website www.southdownsland.com