

Harting Parish

setting the scene:-

The 2021 census returned a population of 1,489 for Harting Parish, an increase of 38 people over the 2011 figure. The parish is very large, covering 8,000 acres. It consists of the main village of South Harting, and subsidiary hamlets of Nyewood, West and East Harting. They each have individual identities, notably Nyewood. There are several other clusters of houses. There are many fine buildings, from Grade I listed Uppark to former humble agricultural dwellings. Whilst providing necessary small dwellings, it is widely considered that Warrenside does not enhance South Harting. Otherwise the impact of the housing in the parish is generally sympathetic, not least because properties don't appear crammed onto small sites.

The parish runs from near Compton in the south north to the River Rother, and from the Hampshire border towards Elsted in the east. There is a 37 year old Community Hall in South Harting, and the new Henry Warren Hall in Nyewood. As there are 6 other public venues available to use there is a sufficiency of them. There are two play areas in South Harting, and one in Nyewood, and a sports field complete with pavilion. The Parish Council own the Village Hall and Sports Field, and also 14 acres of amenity land and woodland located between South Harting and the South Downs Way. Up until the early 20thC the Uppark Estate owned most of the land in the parish, but on the farms being sold 100 years ago Uppark lost its paternal position. The Parish Council was formed in 1894 and was one of only two Councils in the whole country to elect a woman as its first chairman(sic). 50 years ago, Harting created one of the first Community bus services in the country; it is still running. Villagers bought the village shop in 1997, predating what subsequently happened at Milland, Lodsworth and other locations in the SDNP. Harting has the oldest Old Club in the country, founded in 1800 – and an extant Charter Fair going back more than 750 years.

There are 21 miles of highway in the parish, which if put end to end is enough road to drive from the centre of South Harting to the M3 at Winchester. There are more than 35 miles of footpaths and bridleways, which added to the hundreds of acres of Open Access areas on Harting and West Harting Downs provides an extensive network of public green space. Whilst farming retains a major impact on the parish, farmers employ fewer local people. There is a sand quarry located in the parish, largely 'out of sight, out of mind' except when lorries habitually hit medieval Durford Bridge. The largest employers in the parish are glasshouse manufacturers Alitex and Sky Park Farm.

Our understanding is that South Harting was the first Conservation Area designated in West Sussex. The inhabitants are very proud of their settlements and community and emphasise that change must enhance and not degrade either the look or the feel of the area. They are well aware that because of its physical location under the much-visited viewpoint of Harting Down any development at South Harting will have an impact on both the immediate area and wider landscape. That is why they, and hence this PPS, are unable to identify any development sites.

Parish Priorities Statement



Introduction

The South Downs National Park Authority decided in May 2022 that it would review parts of its Local Plan in line with Government Policy and to ensure the Plan delivers on corporate priorities relating to Climate Action, ReNature and a National Park for All. The views and input of the local community into the Local Plan Review are vital to us particularly those of our town and parish councils. One way in which town and parish councils can contribute to the Local Plan Review is through a **Parish Priority Statement (PPS)**.

Neighbourhood Priority Statements (NPS) as a concept were introduced in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), which was published by the Government in May 2022. NPS are statements prepared by local communities that summarise the principal needs and prevailing views for their local area. There is currently very little information available from the Government, but this will be provided at a later date through secondary legislation and regulations.

In the interim we are inviting all our town and parish councils that are located entirely in the National Park or whose main settlement is located in the National Park to prepare a PPS. A full list of these councils is set out in the appendix to this letter. It will not be necessary for the Council to be designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning in order to do this. The format and content of PPS follows the very broad approach set out in the LURB, to enable any PPS to evolve into NPS as legislation and guidance is provided by Government.

Please use the attached template to prepare your PPS, following the template will assist the SDNPA in collating information and reviewing priorities across the National Park. There are guidance notes for each question about the sort of information we are looking for. The PPS should focus on the principal needs and prevailing views of your local community. Please identify any opportunities to contribute to the Authority's priorities on Climate Action, Nature Recovery and a National Park for All. More information on these priorities can be found in the [SDNPA Corporate Plan](#). We have indicated a word limit for each section to ensure the documents are focused on the main issues any text beyond the word limit may not be considered by the Authority.

It is really important to gather the views of as many people as possible, who live, work or visit your parish. The second question of the template asks you how you have consulted with your local community. A PPS that demonstrates a high level of community engagement and support will ensure the document will influence when informing the Local Plan Review process. As a minimum the draft PPS should be published inviting comments from the wider community. Town and Parish Councils should also make particular efforts to engage with hard to reach and underrepresented groups such as young people. To help you with the template we have written a PPS for the hypothetical parish of Greenville.

Please submit your PPS to us at the address below by 20 October 2023. Officers from the Authority will review your PPS and get back to you with any queries. The intention is for all PPS to be considered by our Policy and Resources Committee with the intention of publishing them on our website.

Your PPS will not be made part of the development plan for the National Park, but it will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review. We will consider the principal needs and prevailing views set out in your PPS as we progress the Local Plan Review and update local planning policy. PPS will also be useful when applying for funding from the Authority, for example, from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Sustainable Communities Fund. Finally, your PPS may be useful for funding applications to other bodies. Where a Town or Parish Council have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan the PPS will supplement the Plan not supersede it as the PPS will not form part of the Development Plan.

I. Your Details

Information Required	Response
Contact name	Trish Walker
Town or Parish Council	Harting
Main contact address	The Old Post Office South Harting Petersfield Hants GU31 5PU
Main contact telephone number	01730 825201
Main contact email	clerk@harting-pc.gov.uk
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans and progress communicated regularly in Parish News, community Facebook page and village WhatsApp groups • A dedicated page on our Parish Council website • Questionnaire circulated to every household and available in hard copy at village shop • 20% of households completed the questionnaire • Future Energy Landscape workshop run twice. Over 50 local participants discussed how renewable technologies would meet our Parish energy needs • Displays and outreach at local events – monthly Repair Café, village lunch, Charter Fair, etc • Parish meeting – 73 attended to hear what came out of the questionnaire. Group discussions further identified key priorities • Final draft shared with Parish <p><i>100 words</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

The vision for the future...

What are the three key changes you would like to see in your Parish over the next 15 years? These changes should relate to the priorities set out below. It will also be helpful to explain when you think these changes should happen over the 15 year period.

Ensure the Parish continues to be a healthy, happy and thriving community, addressing the impacts of Climate Change, whilst retaining its unique character as settlements surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Development - ASAP

- All new developments constructed beyond current building regulations saving and creating energy
- Retrofit feasible alternatives to fossil fuel energy to existing homes and businesses
- Identify opportunities to generate renewable energy to transition away from fossil fuels

Improve transport infrastructure - ASAP

- Parking, with EV charging
- all aspects of road maintenance
- ensure PRoWs fit for purpose

Community building

- Ensure that the acknowledged benefits of living here are retained, protecting the unique character and surroundings
- Create an inclusive place that meets the needs of all in the community – young, old, families, the disabled
- Community projects that engage people in the protection of our beautiful countryside, responding to the consequences of climate change

142 words

Max 100 words

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
<p>What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main development need is for housing to enable local young and elderly people to remain in the parish • Provide opportunities for local residents to downsize • Development should prioritise brownfield sites and redundant farm buildings and not be shoehorned into small sites • A car park is needed in South Harting village to address parking problems plus the provision of EV charging facilities • Existing properties, including where possible listed buildings, retrofitted to allow use of alternatives to fossil fuel energy including better insulation and double glazing • Existing community facilities are adequate <p>89 words</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<p>Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no obvious sites for development because of the visual impact from the top of the downs and other viewpoints • Any development around South Harting likely to have severe adverse visual impact on SDNP • Industrial estates in Nyewood • Need for village car park, only site mentioned the field west of White Hart. This need first identified 55 years ago
<p>Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?</p>	<p>The Parish is protected from unsuitable development by the South Harting Settlement Policy Area and three conservation areas. For development to take place it should take proper account of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views from the Downs • Existing open space

Homes

Information required	Response
<p>What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable, to enable younger and elderly people to remain living in the community • Modest in size to ensure diversity of provision and opportunities for downsizing • Homes resilient to climate change, designed to minimise overheating and flooding risk • Homes meeting the highest energy performance Standards <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>44 words</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<p>What size of home is needed locally?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller 2 to 3 bed homes built to Parker Morris room size standards • On-site parking facilities with EV charging points essential • Retirement apartments (single storey) for the elderly • Retain smaller homes; prevent them being enlarged and specify where smaller homes must not be combined to create larger properties
<p>Any other requirements?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure homes perform beyond current building regulations (eg Passivhaus standards), proven through appropriate post-construction/post occupation evaluation • Minimise energy demand by focusing on fabric of building and use of ground/air source heat pumps • Build in resistance to climate change by use of flood resistant doors and windows, higher electric sockets and horizontally installed plasterboard • Incorporate sustainable drainage systems eg soft landscaping/permeable paving to reduce load on storm water or sewerage systems • Correctly designed lifetime homes, ensuring accessibility by reducing steps and slopes. • Nature-friendly construction and gardens, including bee palaces, swift boxes etc <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>91 words</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

Design

Information Required	Response
<p>Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three parish Conservation areas, ensure their settings are not adversely impacted by development within or neighbouring them. • Furze Meadow, Nyewood. Provides play area for Nyewood residents. • South Gardens, The Warren and Playing Fields – all owned by parish, therefore in position to maintain them to take account of parishioners needs. • Harting Downs SSSI <p>53 words</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>
<p>Particular features of buildings of local character</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many buildings constructed of local clunch stone, with brick quoins and window surrounds • Roofs mainly tile, with some slate and a few thatched • A few houses in Harting Street gentrified by false fronts. • Do not use street frontages to experiment with designs that clash with existing development <p>47 words</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
<p>Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up</p>	<p>Harting Parish covers thousands of acres of beautiful landscape. Unique Downland and widespread farming shape our landscape.</p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community wide biodiversity projects to strengthen our connection with nature and protect endangered species eg Operation Nest Box & rewilding projects • Farming and local communities working together to strengthen biodiversity eg improve hedgerow management to benefit the annual movements and needs of wildlife • Create improved, joined up hedgerow systems, including a replanting programme. The creation and maintenance of ditches and wet areas • Protecting existing public green space, footpaths and access to green areas <p>91 words</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming recognised as essential to the fabric of our community despite increasing modernisation and farmers now employing fewer local people • Farming of all types - arable, sheep, cattle and game - constitute major businesses • Retention of incredibly important Harting Stores and Post Office. The public house, shops and cafe are vital in maintaining the community's social and business life • Home working and tourism depend upon these businesses • Sky Park deer farm is a successful local employer and tourist attraction • More businesses supporting the community and enhancing tourism would help create local jobs and preserve the character of the village <p>98 words</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p>	<p>The War Memorial Playing fields, South Gardens, Warren and Furze Meadow are managed public open spaces. The extensive footpath network and Harting Down are enjoyed by our community and visitors alike.</p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued maintenance and care of the Warren • Replanting of hedgerows around the playing fields • Encourage the wider community to be involved with the management of PROVs • Improved maintenance of Harting Down to justify its status as an SSSI • Ensure New Lane & Upperton Lane don't become BOATs • Ensuring worked-out West Harting sand pit is appropriately renatured • Provide ongoing support for the Petersfield to Midhurst cycle way <p>98 words</p>

Max 100 words

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p>	<p>Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate car parking in South Harting Allied with provision of EV charging Improved highway maintenance to deal with increasingly neglected potholes, drainage, verge cutting National planning policy enabling renewable energy infrastructure to allow local energy generation Local grid upgrades to cope with local energy demand and generation Improved maintenance of PRowWs, damaged by their increased use - 'Access for All' A robust project ensuring improvements to sewage, drainage and water use is rolled out across the Parish and wider area Infrastructure to encourage active travel ie Petersfield to Midhurst cycleway There are sufficient community buildings <p>96 words</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>Max 100 words</i></p>

FINALISING YOUR SUBMISSION

As a reminder, before finalising your submission, please check you have addressed the following:

- You have completed the details in section I, including details of public engagement events and consultation activities which have informed the statement. Where possible please identify the percentage of the community that have engaged in the preparation of the PPS.**
- Please try to summarise the community's views and aspirations as much as possible, do not provide details of individuals who have commented, and bullet points for key priorities where possible.**
- If you have supporting evidence or information please use a hyperlink to the data where available, and summarise the information as much as possible in the PPS.**

DISCLAIMER

The assessment process and outputs will feed into the Local Plan review process but we cannot guarantee the delivery of specific community aspirations in the South Downs Local Plan policies, allocations or designations.

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

The information collected in this response form will be used by the National Park Authority, as part of its public task, to inform the local plan-making processes and other relevant Authority documents or processes. This information will then be retained until it is superseded. By responding you are accepting the information within your response, may be made available to the public. Any personal information provided (names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other contact details) will not be made public. Please let us know if you do not wish for your information to be shared in this way.

All information held by the South Downs National Park Authority may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act. If any information included is sensitive and you would like to have the opportunity to object to its release in the event of a Freedom of Information request, please contact us.

Further details on how we manage your information, including your rights under the GDPR, are available in our Privacy Notice <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/transparency/privacy-statement-2/>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please tick here to confirm you have read and agree to submit your information in accordance with the disclaimer and data protection statement.
Information required	Response
Print Name	
Date	

We ask that forms are returned by email to planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk

If you are unable to return the form by email please post to:
Planning Policy Team, South Downs National Park Authority, South Downs Centre, North Street
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH