

15 December 2023

Town/Parish Clerk
Sent via email

Dear Colleague,

Draft Settlement Facilities Assessment

We are writing to ask for input from your parish to fact-check the draft settlement facilities assessment.

As covered in the recent Local Plan Review Parishes workshops, we are updating the assessment of settlement facilities across the National Park to assist in our understanding of the relative sustainability of settlements based on the availability of facilities and services which residents can access daily. This will help inform decisions regarding the provision of future housing development and help to focus development within established and well-connected settlements.

The Assessment covers a number of specific facilities within a settlement that can be accessed on a daily basis. If a facility is not present within the settlement, there is also the opportunity to include a nearby facility if it is within a reasonable walk or cycle distance in a neighbouring settlement.

We wrote to parishes in February 2023, with a proforma to be completed by the 6th April 2023. Over half of all parishes within the National Park responded and we are grateful for the information provided which we have added to our records. For those settlements where no questionnaire was completed, we have carried out desktop research and added these results to our records.

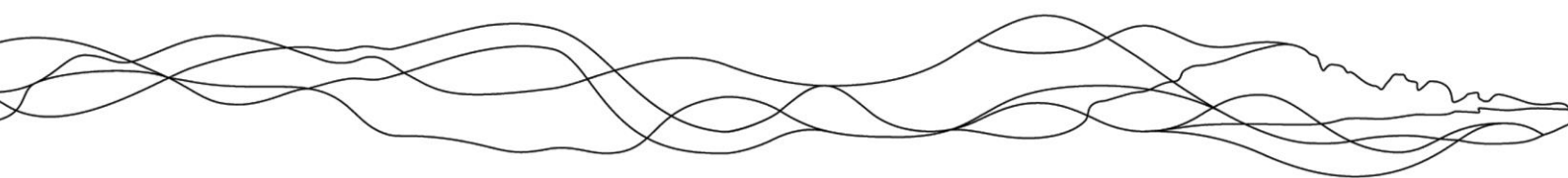
The results of our assessment to date are confidential at this time but are available to view using the following weblink and password:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/south-downs-local-plan-review/draft-settlement-facilities-assessment/>

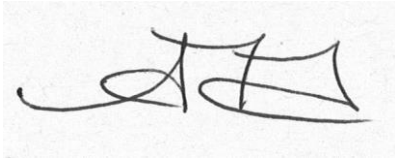
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Please can you fact-check and confirm the assessment is accurate. A proforma is available on the above webpage, which should be used to let us know of any additions or amendments that are necessary. The proforma also includes details of the criteria used for including facilities in the assessment. We are requesting feedback on this draft assessment by the **31st January 2024**. Do contact us if you have a problem responding in this timescale.

For any other queries regarding the Local Plan Review, please contact us at planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk



Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ATJ', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Amy Tyler-Jones

Planning Policy Lead

