

South Downs National Park Authority Parishes Meeting

13 March 2024

Susan Dyke

New Senior Leadership Team

Replacing the previous Senior Management Team

- Tim Slaney – COE
- Anita Kerwin-Nye – Director of landscape and strategy
- Mike Hughes - Director of planning

CIL money

The SDNPA is holding CIL money (I presume this is the same as section 106 money) allotted to a number of the parishes totally £1.4 million, so they asked the parishes to please spend it because the money should be spent to support their communities.

Do we have unspent section 106 monies somewhere? Do these figures appear in our financial statements anywhere?

- Parish councils can spend the money
- Parish councils can give the money to other local groups to do projects that benefit the community.
- Parish councils can even give CIL money to local transport providers

SDNPA news

The SDNPA is launching a Take the Lead campaign to encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead especially during lambing season.

The SDNPA now has over 300 hectares of land managed for nature. This is 45% of their target for 2030 which they set when they launched their nature recovery scheme.

DEFRA has launched a scheme called Farming in Protected Landscapes which provides funding for farmers for capital projects which involve

- Nature recovery
- Increased access
- Climate action

There are a number of initiatives to engage people with the natural environment.

- SDNPA continues to run many volunteer conservation activities, see their website for opportunities.
- South Downs Youth Action has seen 78 young people (16-25 year) involved in 8 conservation sessions
- School Engagement Team has supported 682 pupils from 11 schools to get outside in the countryside.
- A group called Make Good Trouble has been working with young people. (They may be an organisation we could talk to about doing a project with the young people in the village.)
- The Muslim Hiking Group has organised some walks and plans more.

- There will be some archeological walks in March and April led by James Sainsbury (all bookings closed on the website).

The SDNPA has spent some of its own CIL money creating a new 9 mile circular walk from Stanmer Park to Ditchling Beacon to Black Cap and back to the start.

Local plan review

South Downs National Park Authority planning committee is meeting on Thursday 14 March. They will cover

- their local plan review
- explain the coming consultation
- consider the parish priorities statements
- consider approving a Technic Advice Note on biodiversity net gain

All SDNPA planning committee meetings are available to view online.

Sussex Woods Protected Sites

Is a Natural England pilot project to look at strategies to protect woodland from deer damage.

Questions and answers

There were a number of questions from the parishes. A significant proportion were about the Centurion Way. Some other topics more relevant to us were:

Village design statements

The government's reforms to planning remove the supplementary planning documents from the process, including the village statements. However, village design statements will still be material considerations.

Land managed for nature

If parishes have land that is managed for nature, the SDNPA have a Renature hub on their website that contains lots of information and advice. They also have funding available if the land is within the national park, but Hurst Meadows is not. <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/nature-recovery-information-for-delivery-partners/>

Housing provision

There were a number of concerns expressed about housing that are similar to those we have expressed.

- The poor state of repair of some social housing
- The lack of affordable housing and smaller homes
- Housing associations not interested in managing housing that is part of a small development.

One solution that has worked in some areas is the formation of a Community Land Trust. In other parts of the park historic estates are providing housing for people on the housing register.

Fingerposts

A number of parishes were concerned about the poor state of repair of their white fingerposts and what money could be used to maintain them. Both East and West Sussex are no longer maintaining the finger posts. I think some parishes may have used CIL money.