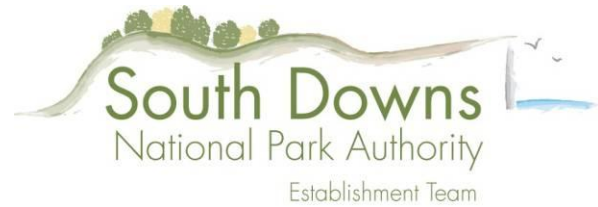


The News

South Downs National Park



Welcome to South Downs National Park News

We hope this newsletter keeps you up to date with the new South Downs National Park and the establishment of the National Park Authority. If there are any topics you would like us to cover in the newsletter please let us know by emailing: southdowns@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Update on Appointment of Authority Members

On 10 December, Hilary Benn announced that the Park Authority would have 27 Members comprising:

- 14 Councillors from the Local Authorities covering the Park (listed with their nominating Local Authority in the table below)
- 6 Parish Councillors from within the Park (listed as 'PC' in the table below)
- 7 national Members appointed by the Secretary of State through an open recruitment process (listed as 'Sec. Of State' in the table below)

25 Members have been appointed so far. The remaining 2 Local Authority nominations will be confirmed during March. The Authority Members will take strategic decisions for the National Park and ensure the Authority responds to the aspirations of the people who live in, work in & visit the Park.

Authority Members appointed so far:

Alun	Alesbury	Stoughton PC
Sir Sebastian	Anstruther	Sec. Of State
Nick	Bennett	East Sussex County Council
Ken	Bodfish OBE	Sec. Of State
David	Burden	Northchapel PC
Patrick	Burridge	East Hants District Council
Josephine	Carr	Willingdon & Jevington PC
Norman	Dingemans	Arun District Council
Jim	Funnell	Adur & Worthing Councils
Peter	Gardiner	Lewes District Council
Neville	Harrison	Southeast Parish Meeting
Felicity	Hindson	Hampshire County Council
Barbara	Holyome	Bramdean & Hinton Ampner PC
David	Jenkins	Horsham District Council
Susannah	Kemp	Mid Sussex District Council
Jeremy	Leggett	Sec. Of State
Susan	Morris	Eastbourne Borough Council
Minette	Palmer	Selborne PC
Margaret	Paren	Sec. Of State
Sue	Saville	Sec. Of State
Andrew	Shaxson	Chichester District Council
Tom	Tupper	Sec. Of State
Deborah	Urquhart	West Sussex County Council
Susan	Warren	Sec. Of State
Keith	Wood	Winchester City Council

South Downs National Park Anticipated Timeline

~February/March 2010

The names of the Park Authority members are announced.

~March 2010

A Statutory Instrument is laid in Parliament enabling the establishment of the Park Authority.

Members training programme begins.

~31 March 2010

The South Downs National Park designation takes effect. The two AONB designations are revoked.

~April 2010

The South Downs National Park Authority meets for the first time. The Chair of the Authority is elected by the Members.

The Authority begins to make strategic decisions as it prepares to become fully operational in 2011.

~March 2011

The South Downs Joint Committee winds up.

~April 2011

The South Downs National Park Authority takes on its statutory planning responsibilities and becomes fully operational.

Listening to Your Views

Over the last few weeks, the Team have been busy listening to people's views from across the South Downs at a series of workshops. Over the last month we have heard from over 200 people about their thoughts on the future role of the Authority and a long-term vision for the South Downs. The reports from these events will soon be available on-line at

www.southdowns.gov.uk

We would like to thank all those who participated. Your comments will be invaluable for shaping the new organisation and informing Authority Members so that we can make the most of the opportunities the South Downs National Park presents.

Volunteer Rangers Have Their Say

On Saturday 20th February around 50 Volunteer Rangers (VRs) from across the National Park travelled to Pulborough Village Hall to have their say on the future of the Volunteer Rangers Service and the role of the new National Park Authority.



Richard Shaw (Interim Chief Executive of the SDNPA Establishment Team) leading a discussion on the Volunteer Rangers' aspirations for the future of the South Downs National Park.

Richard Shaw (Interim Chief Executive for the SDNPA Establishment Team) led a discussion with the VRs about their aspirations for the National Park in to the future. This was followed by Huw Davies (also from the Establishment Team) who led a workshop on the role of the Volunteer Rangers now and in the future.

The Team members were struck by the enthusiasm showed by the Volunteer Rangers and their wish to be associated with the National Park Authority in to the future.

All the comments and feedback from the Volunteer Rangers will be used to inform the new NPA Members as they take decisions about the Authority's work and role.

Around 420 Volunteer Rangers currently work with the South Downs Joint Committee and some have been helping to look after the South Downs for over 20 years. The volunteers undertake a wide range of tasks including practical conservation work, Rights of Way monitoring and maintenance, Dutch Elm Disease monitoring and guided walks.

Contact us at:

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South Downs National Park Your Questions Answered

If you have a question about the National Park, please email: southdowns@defra.gsi.gov.uk and we will try to publish the answer here.

Where can I find out more about the Park Authority and what is happening?

Please visit www.southdowns.gov.uk. As well as finding previous copies of this newsletter and information about the Members, you will soon be able to have your say about issues such as policy and planning options.

Where will the HQ be located?

We want to hear your views on this. A short questionnaire will be on the Park Authority website from 9th March. Please go to www.southdowns.gov.uk consultations and take a few moments to answer the ten questions. We will use the results to inform our search for premises in the summer and autumn.

We have heard a lot about Rights of Way recently, how will this work in the future?

The SDNP Authority is an Access Authority – which means it will become responsible for Open Access across the South Downs (CRoW Act). It must also establish an advisory group known as the Local Access Forum. However, the Authority is not responsible for rights of way. This is still the role of the Highways Authorities – County Councils and Unitary Authorities.

The challenge across the South Downs is to ensure high quality and consistency of provision across the Rights of Way network. The Authority will need to find the best way of working in partnership with other agencies to ensure this is delivered for local users and visitors.

Do you know what the budget will be for the National Park Authority?

In short, no, we have not yet been advised of the budget for 2010/11, but expect to hear in the next month. The Park Authority will be fully funded by national Government through Defra.