

Neighbourhood Plan Area Designations

The production of Neighbourhood Plans is a new power under the Localism Act 2011 which enables Parish Councils to plan how their communities will change and develop in the future. In areas with no Parish Council, a Neighbourhood Forum may be created to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans should reflect these policies and plan positively to support them. They should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

The procedures for producing a Neighbourhood Plan are set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 6th April 2012.

Parish Councils

The first step for a Parish Council is to submit to the local planning authority an application for the designation of the area to be covered by each Neighbourhood Plan. A Parish Council may choose to produce a Neighbourhood Plan that covers all or part of its parish. They must submit to the local planning authority the following:

- (a) A map which identifies the area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan; and
- (b) A statement explaining why the area concerned is appropriate.

In most cases, the local planning authority in Adur is the District Council. However, for those parts of Adur which lie within the South Downs National Park, applications for the designation of Neighbourhood Plan Areas must be made to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). For a Parish which straddles both areas, an application must be made to both Authorities.

Once an application is received from a Parish Council, it will be publicised in the local press and on the District and Parish Council's web site for no less than 6 weeks. Comments received during this period will be considered by the Council in liaison with the SDNP and a decision made.

Sompting Parish Council has submitted an application to Adur Council as well as well as to the South Downs National Park Authority to designate the area of Sompting Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. This will be advertised in the local press and on the web sites from the 10th October to the 23rd November 2012.

If you need any more information please contact:

Colette Blackett, Planning Policy Manager

phone 01273 26324 or email colette.blackett@adur-worthing.gov.uk