

Parish Priorities Statement



I. Your Details

Information Required	Response
Contact name	Heather Parry
Town or Parish Council	Chair of Exton Parish Meeting
Main contact address	[REDACTED]
Main contact telephone number	
Main contact email	[REDACTED]
Details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS	<p>A Subcommittee of three parishioners was created at the last Parish Meeting to collect responses and collate our Parish Planning Priorities Statement.</p> <p>An email was sent out to all households on the Exton Parish Meeting mailing list, alerting Parishioners that the PPS form was going to be hand delivered to every household shortly. An explanation about the purpose of the form invited Parishioners to fill it in at least as much as they wanted to.</p> <p>Information about the form delivery and inviting a response was also sent out on the Preshaw village WhatsApp group.</p> <p>The forms were duly delivered by hand to every household in the Parish with doorstep engagement as possible.</p> <p>105 dwellings were identified as being officially in the Parish of Exton. These are located in four main areas- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Local collection points were identified in all four areas to facilitate the return of the forms.</p> <p>A second email was sent out reminding Parishioners about the impending deadline for response.</p> <p>After the deadline, the subcommittee collected the forms and collated the responses.</p> <p>The PPS was then drafted based on these comments and a draft copy was sent to the respondents to check it before we finalised the Parish PPS submitted here.</p> <p>Please note that there were no responses from the [REDACTED] It became clear that those residents identify with Warnford Parish, even though officially they live in the Parish of Exton.</p> <p>Exton Parish does not officially extend to include the 3 houses on the corner at the south entrance off the A32 or the 2 houses on the west side of the A32 a bit further north. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>

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	<p>23 households responded out of the 105 dwellings who are officially in the Parish of Exton. Thus, there was a 22 % response.</p> <p>It is worth noting here that in 2010 a concerted effort went into preparing a Village Design Statement for Exton. Responses from Parishioners now indicate that this VDS remains valid.</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.

<p>Exton Parish A 15 Year Vision for the Future</p> <p>Our respondents expressed an over-riding emphasis towards the preservation and conservation of the settlements and countryside within the Parish. There is a strong desire to see the existing character of the built form protected from poor quality enhancements or inappropriate new infill development that is neither sustainable nor chimes with the traditional vernacular of the existing buildings. Of paramount importance is protecting the significant beauty of the natural environment and minimising further pressure on both the ecology and the scenic value of the Parish while carefully balanced against a need for public access and enjoyment. Many residents recognise the need for some modest change while requiring such change to be carefully woven into the fabric of what we have, and, where possible, without compromise.</p> <p>The three principal areas of comment are split between the natural environment, the built environment and the community and its visitors.</p> <p>Protecting the Natural Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future Planning and Highways policies should rigorously protect the Conservation Area, AONB, Dark Skies Designation and the Meon River, thus reinforcing their stated importance to the community. The enforcement of planning legislation for non-compliance is required. 2. Preventing the erosion of road verges, most especially in Exton village. They provide safe areas for pedestrians, protect listed structures and preserve the character of the village. 3. Continued focus on the upkeep of all public footpaths, keeping them clear, with better maintained stiles and gates for improved public access. 4. Safeguarding measures for the River Meon through maintenance of its banks and floodplain to control water abstraction, better attenuate seasonal flooding and inhibit pollution. Properly funded, visible and sustained measures are required. 5. Protection of farmland and woods with enhanced hedge and tree planting to encourage biodiversity whilst protecting visual amenity. 6. Relocation of South Downs Way from temporary route through Exton village to its original ancient route north of the village. 7. Explore opportunities to manage green spaces in private ownership to enhance the environment for residents and the visitor experience. 8. There is no desire for commercial Wind or Solar Farms in the SDNP area in order to preserve the visual amenity of this valuable landscape. <p>Protecting the Built Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The improvement of the existing housing stock for environmental, amenity and population growth reasons was emphasised by most residents, while recognising that some additional housing provision, in extremis, may be required. Residents wish to avoid over exploitation of all settlements and their amenity in order to conserve its distinctive character. 2. Should new housing be justified, it should be energy sustainable, affordable, small scale, future proofed, built with traditional materials in keeping with local architectural styles and provided with off street parking, dedicated drainage and individual gardens – these new homes to be on brownfield or infill sites only. 3. Specific categories of preferred new housing occupiers would be first time buyers, young families, local workers, the elderly and/or disabled. 4. All construction should reflect the local vernacular and building materials compatible with Chalk Downland village aesthetics. 5. Parish churches and other notable listed buildings with specific historical value such as the cobb cottage, Sunrise, are valued and have significance within the community. 6. Solutions urgently required to address traffic saturation in Exton village, which is regarded as acute. Lanes are too often over parked and congested, thus impeding access to properties for residents and emergency vehicles, as well as presenting road user safety issues. 7. The metalled surface lanes within Exton Village and throughout the Parish are mostly not fit for purpose. Measures to make good and maintain them.

8.	No further new employment premises are sought in Exton village while the community does support existing employment generating businesses and recognises their significance to Parish life and their economic value. Working from home culture is perceived to have diminished business use demand. There is some support for the re-purposing of former agricultural buildings (but not equine) to alternative employment uses. Businesses to the west of Exton village should be encouraged to use alternative access routes to avoid access through Exton village.
9.	Improvement in waste recycling facilities is sought along with more waste bins for walkers and visitors plus provision for dog waste bags.
The Community:	
1.	Traffic volumes through Exton village now degrading residents' quality of life and reducing the visitor experience. Immediate need for viable parking solutions, preferably directly off the A32, to alleviate resident and emergency access as well as road safety issues on narrow lanes, often suffering from badly damaged metalled road surfaces with potholes and collapsing verges. These initiatives should be blended with traffic calming measures where appropriate and a focus on reducing visitor parking in sensitive areas which impedes access along village and single-track Parish lanes. A dedicated traffic management plan for Exton village is thought highly desirable.
2.	Redirection of South Downs Way from existing temporary route through Exton village to the original ancient line north of the village settlement combined with a new improved parking offer at the Grynch plus improved parking at Beacon Hill Beeches is sought.
3.	Improved signage for visitors to the Parish, especially South Downs Way walkers is very desirable.
4.	Broadband and Fibre connections urgently need to be advanced and improved (robustness and capacity) particularly to more isolated settlements in the Parish, such as Beacon Hill Farm cottages.
5.	Utilities and the relevant regulating authorities must strive to mitigate water pollution incidents most specifically to the River Meon and enforcement action should be pursued where failure occurs. A more stable electricity supply avoiding power failures required. These power cuts and the loss of copper landlines represent communication challenges for all.
6.	There is a desire to see the Parish church become a significant community hub with a recognition this may require some amenity upgrades.
7.	Great value is placed by Exton Parish residents on the Meon Hall, it's amenity and playing fields and residents wish to support this facility positively long term.
8.	Multi modal transport solutions required urgently with improved parking areas for visitors, better public transport services, safer traffic management regime on A32 providing crossing points for school bus users and access to Meonstoke PO & Stores with measures to further slow traffic speeds on A32 required. Speed restrictions on village roads to 20MPH.

Development and management of land

Information required	Response
What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?	Respondent majority seek no further development in Exton Parish, particularly no commercial, with some flex around minimal new affordable housing offer. Perception that Exton village is inundated by traffic accessing public house and vineyard plus walkers and visitors to SDNP. Emphasis on maintenance of and improvement to existing housing stock. Respondent minority would accept limited residential development on infill, with minimal impact on neighbours, for first time buyers, local workers, elderly and disabled. Housing should be in keeping with local character and essentially have gardens, sufficient off-road parking and individual waste treatment facilities. Above all, nothing adversely impacting upon the River Meon or the natural environment and amenity of the South Downs.
Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept minimal development only where needs are demonstrated. Exton needs good local parking facilities for visitors. Land opposite the Grynch immediately off the A32 could provide much needed parking. Improved parking for visitors to Beacon Hill and Beacon Hill Beeches is sought. Otherwise only brownfield and infill sites should be considered for development, such as former farm buildings, provided traffic volumes in Exton village are not aggravated.
Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?	Robust enforcement of measures to protect the beauty and tranquillity of the SDNP, the designated AONB, Dark Night Skies and the Conservation Area. Stringent restriction on any commercial uses increasing traffic volumes through Exton village where narrow lanes and deficient parking threaten safety of road users and access to homes and for emergency vehicles. Preservation of views from Exton village - East to Old Winchester Hill and North to Beacon Hill deemed important. Residents wish to protect the River Meon and hedgerows for wildlife.

Homes

Information required	Response
What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?	Only where infrastructure will support, limited housing provision focussed on first time buyers, young families, local workers, elderly and disabled. Community generally resistant to new development (unless deemed essential), due to current visitor levels, inadequate parking and traffic circulation deficiencies.
What size of home is needed locally?	Where development is deemed appropriate, a strong preference was expressed for two and three bedroomed homes, primarily for local people, first time buyers, the elderly and the disabled.
Any other requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any new homes should be fully sustainable with renewable energy and individual sewage treatment plants. New homes should have sufficient off-road parking to prevent further parking issues especially in and around the village of Exton. New homes should be built using materials in keeping with the local character and with minimal environmental impact, preserving the precious nature of the villages, hamlets and their surroundings.

Design

Information Required	Response
Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desire to respect and protect Exton conservation area, its neighbouring communities and its surrounding countryside (as outlined in the Village Design Statement, 2010). Local architectural styles defined by traditional building materials of brick, flint, clay roof tiles and thatch should be respected. The River Meon and its water meadows provide unique character to Exton village. The Parish churches are greatly valued architectural and community assets, as is the Shoe Public House. The Parish of Exton street scene is largely without street lighting - an important characteristic of the area. The Meon Valley Trail (MVT) bridal ways, cycle paths and footpaths are all precious local amenities for residents and visitors alike. These should be preserved.
Particular features of buildings of local character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The churches of the parish are historic buildings and are key features of the community. The area is characterised by brick and flint, weatherboard, clay tiled and thatch roofed houses, many of which are listed properties. Flint walls are in abundance and are also a key characteristic of the villages and hamlets. The verges against these walls should be maintained in order to protect the stonework from damage.

The natural environment

Information Required	Response
Opportunities to make nature bigger, better and more joined up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant support for the upkeep of all public footpaths with an emphasis on keeping them clear and better maintained, especially stiles and gates, with improved access for the elderly and dog walkers. Desire to explore opportunities for new permissive rights of way. Preshaw specifically sought circular footpaths with enhanced parking for visitors. Safeguarding measures for the River Meon with a focus on maintenance of banks and floodplain, along with the regular clearance of vegetation and debris to assist with flood attenuation and inhibit pollution. Most significantly the area between

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	<p>the Grynch and the railway line to the East is key to mitigating flooding in Exton village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of farmland and woodland with enhanced hedge and tree planting along field edges to assist with biodiversity whilst maintaining the visual amenity. • A resolution to the vexed issue of the temporary South Downs Way route through the Exton village. A desire to see it relocated to the north of the village along its perceived old historical alignment between Beacon and Old Winchester Hills. • Some support for privately owned amenity green space to be maintained by the community. • To encourage the planting of fruit trees and the maintenance of existing orchard areas.

Jobs

Information Required	Response
<p>Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided</p>	<p>Strong community support to protect existing employment offers at The Shoe PH, Exton Stud, Manor Farm, the Vineyard, Corhampton PO & Stores and existing Bed and Breakfast businesses. Beyond that little support for expansion of employment opportunities other than the conversion of redundant farm buildings (but not equestrian premises) and some additional B&B offers. Working from home trends are thought to have lessened employment space demand in the parish.</p>

Public spaces

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exton Church and its Churchyard. Desire to see upgrade of facilities to include a Kitchenette and WC in the Church. • Meon Hall. Support for maintenance of shared community amenity of the Meon Hall and its recreation ground and sporting facilities. • Northern Exton village around the Grynch and Beacon Hill Beeches. Desire to see significant improvement of parking facilities in these locations especially at the Grynch. • The preservation and maintenance of road verges in Exton Village is important in order to protect listed built structures alongside the public highway and enhance road safety. Measures to stop their destruction are required. • Emphasis on protecting natural England areas of Old Winchester Hill, Beacon Hill and their footpaths, enhancing access whilst protecting flora.

Infrastructure

Information Required	Response
<p><i>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</i></p>	<p>Highways - General feeling that traffic in Exton village now at saturation point. Less an issue in the wider Parish.</p> <p>Active travel priorities appear to be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi modal transport facilities in form of designated parking areas for visitor cars to Parish enabling transfer to walking, horse riding, cycling etc. Necessary measures to prevent hauliers using these areas. Preferably located near to the A32, to keep traffic out of Exton village. - Desire for improvement in bus services. - Increased concern around traffic congestion inhibiting access to homes and for emergency vehicles. - Parking in the village can inhibit access to homes for residents. - Alternative vehicular access for businesses to west of Exton village to reduce through traffic.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced speeding restrictions and traffic calming measures on A32 and village roads. See VDS 2010. - Improved pedestrian crossing on A32 for school children, walkers, cyclists and horse riders. - Limitation on new housing and no further commercial development in Exton village to attenuate traffic and parking issues. • Effective maintenance programme of metalled road surfaces in Exton village and Parish as a whole is sought. • Broadband and Fibre - improvement of robustness of network coverage and signal strength due to impending loss of copper landlines and prospect of power cuts possibly leaving rural residents with no means of summoning assistance when required. Essential that fibre broadband reaches more remote locations such as Beacon Hill Farm cottages etc. • Utilities - Authorities must enforce Statutory requirements on Public Utilities to mitigate pollution incidents in the River Meon and regulate water abstraction. • Waste - An improvement in recycling facilities is sought. More waste bins for walkers and visitors are required along with some provision for dog faeces bags.

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.

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