



10 December 2013

### **Designation of Henfield neighbourhood area (SDNP part)**

The South Downs National Park Authority Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2013 noted that future neighbourhood area applications, where the main centre of population is outside the National Park, will be undertaken through the Scheme of Delegation to Officers. Henfield is such an area.

The power to designate a neighbourhood area is exercisable under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Henfield Parish Council as the 'relevant body' submitted an application for designation of a neighbourhood area to both Local Planning Authorities:- Horsham District Council (HDC) and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).

The application was publicised and consulted on by the Authorities as required by the Regulations for a minimum 6 week period ending on 21 October 2013. The Neighbourhood Planning Officer at SDNPA consulted with Members of the Authority. No objections were received (and 1 note of support from an SDNPA Member).

It is considered that the proposed neighbourhood area – the part which falls within South Downs National Park – is appropriate to be designated. As already stated Henfield Parish Council is a 'relevant body' to apply for designation. The application consists of or includes the whole area of the parish council. It is the first time an application has been made to the Local Planning Authorities.

It is not considered there is a case for the area concerned to be designated as a business area.

The reasons set out in Henfield Parish Council's statement explaining why the area is appropriate to be designated namely:

*"The objective in producing a neighbourhood plan for the Henfield Parish is to provide a local community led framework, in the spirit of Localism, for guiding the future conservation and development of the parish including the provision of facilities, services and infrastructure"*

are noted and considered to be an appropriate basis on which to prepare a neighbourhood plan.

It is concluded, therefore that the application for the proposed area for Henfield should be designated. The decision to designate relates only to that part of the neighbourhood area within South Downs National Park. The results of the consultation lend support for the designation.

Through the joint working protocol with Horsham District Council, the Authority has mandated Horsham District Council to issue the decision notice to Henfield Parish Council in respect of this matter. This will provide confirmation to the Parish Council of both Local Planning Authorities decision to designate.

Any further correspondence relating to the designation should be addressed to Andrew Triggs, Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood Planning) or Tim Richings (Planning Policy Manager).

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