

Neighbourhood Plan Update.

18th September 2023.

In 2001 the Parish Council applied to Chichester District Council and to the South Downs National Park to write a Neighbourhood Plan, this was agreed by CDC and the SDNP with the SDNP being the lead authority.

Steering Group meetings were held with people who initially showed an interest, but in 2022 the Steering Group decided to temporarily put their meetings on hold until Chichester District Council had adopted their Local Plan, however members of the Steering Group continued to work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

A 'Design Code' (a copy of this is on the NP tab of the FPC website) was written by others under the Guidance of two members of the SG, also a meeting was held with 3 senior officers from CDC, 2 senior officers from SDNP and 2 members of the SG, this meeting was very useful in providing the SG with information on the new, emerging, Local Plan and also for the purposes of discussing local issues and concerns for Funtington parish.

Unfortunately, no updates were added to the Funtington parish Council website by the parish council during this period, even though regular updates and minutes from the SG meetings had been forwarded to the PC.

A flyer was sent out to all households in November 2022 (a copy of this flyer is on the NP tab of the FPC website) updating residents on where we were with the NP.

In November/December 2022 a program (a copy of this is on the NP tab of the FPC website) was written by the SG and regular SG meetings were resumed.

The SG meetings that have been held over the last 10 months have been discussions on which subjects the group felt should be included into the NP and how would be the best way to gather the information needed.

The first topic tackled by the SG was 'local businesses', it was decided to send out a questionnaire to as many of the local businesses that the SG could identify, the group was very surprised to find they had just under 50 businesses (employing more than one person) in the parish of Funtington.

The results of the questionnaire were collated, and two SG meeting was held to discuss the results.

The SG have now decided that their next task is to send out a questionnaire to all households in Funtington parish to establish what are the views of parishioners on many local topics. The SG hope to be able to get this questionnaire out to all households before December 2023.

A new Parish Council was formed in May 2023 and the chair decided that the PC should hold a social evening on 29th September 2023 as an introduction to the new parish councillors and the parishes new Local Councillor.

As part of that meeting an update will be given to those attending, on the NP, it is also hoped that members of the SG will also be able to talk to some of the parishioners attending this social event about Funtington's Neighbourhood Plan.