

Bury Parish Council – Parish Priority Statement

9th October 2023

The South Downs National Park Authority has asked each parish in the National Park to complete a Parish Priority Statement. This is to contribute to its review of its Local Plan in line with Government Policy and to ensure the Plan delivers on corporate priorities relating to Climate Action, ReNature and a National Park for All.

Bury Parish Council (BPC) has been asked to respond to eight specific questions by the 20th of October 2023. BPC discussed each question and then carried out a public consultation on its suggested answers. BPC received 39 written responses (See percentage table below) which helped guide a debate to conclude the answers.

Question	In favour	Disagree	Neither
1	64.1	23.1	12.8
2	64.1	10.3	25.6
3	76.9	7.7	15.4
4	89.5	2.6	7.9
5	89.7	5.0	5.0
6	84.6	2.6	12.8
7	61.5	12.8	25.6
8	71.8	10.3	17.9
Average	75.3	9.3	15.4

1.0 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.

Change should be positive and for the benefit of the village as whole. The changes we would support are strategic, recreational, and social.

1.1 Extending the footpath network

Seek to contribute to a riverside walkway from Pulborough to Arundel. Make a safe crossing for the historic 'Coffin Trail' from Bury to West Burton and investigate further connections to the South Downs Way and contribute to the A29 Road Improvement Committee's aim to make its crossing at the top of Bury Hill safe. Consider the possibility of a small pedestrian bridge over the river Arun to connect Bury with Amberley and the footpath network on the east side of the river and complete the literary trail.

Timescale - Immediate to 15 years

1.2 Improving the village hall

Repair and refurbish the existing building to serve the community for the next 50 years. Reduce the building's energy demand, explore the potential of providing a new social hub and an affordable rented apartment in the building's first floor.

Timescale – Immediate to five years

2.0 DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND

What type and level of development would you like to see in the parish?

Development should not be discouraged provided it enhances rather than exploits the character of the parish.

2.1 Education and social facilities

Support the plan for a new observatory opposite the village school for which land has been secured. Follow through with the plans for the socially inclusive improvements to the village hall.

2.2 New housing

This should be exceptional and only on sites on which such development would be appropriate. Ideally it should be affordable, and it should be restricted to very particular sites that brought a real benefit to the village.

Are there any areas of the Parish you would like to see developed?

2.3 Use of redundant land

Positive use of brownfield sites. The Hillside development with workspaces and nine residential units is a welcome re-use of redundant land. These new homes and jobs are a welcome addition to the village.

Are there any specific areas you want protected for other uses?

2.4 A29

Avoid ribbon development along the A29 and support the A29 Road Improvement Committee's (A29RIC) plan to enhance the landscape of the A29 from Bury Gate to the Whiteways roundabout. Make it a landscaped introduction to the South Downs.

2.5 Backland

Development of back gardens should be avoided. There are already too many examples of this kind of development which only tend to replace the essentially rural character of the village with something that seems suburban.

3.0 HOMES

What type of homes would you like to see in your local community?

New homes should be for the benefit of the parish. Ideally, they should be for people and families with local connections and jobs.

3.1 Sustainability

Exemplary in energy standards and use of grey water, heat pumps and zero carbon.

3.2 Affordability

Meeting the local authority standards of affordability in any form of tenure to encourage young and local people to live in the village and be a positive part of the community.

What size of home is needed locally?

3.3 Smaller units – not flats but individual houses with gardens of 2 to 3 bedrooms and not 4 bedrooms and above.

Any other requirements?

3.4 Village character - Carefully identify sites in which the construction of smaller homes could be both appropriate to the village structure and enhance its character.

4.0 DESIGN

Are there any areas of local character which are particularly important to the local community?

Design should not be prescriptive. It should respond to the village character. That character is a much about the space between the buildings as it is about the buildings themselves. It is a combination of setting and structures that creates local character.

4.1 Street design

The character of rural villages is all too easily extinguished by the application of County Highways Standards that include vision splays and radiused concrete kerb arrangements appropriate to minimum speeds of 30MPH. All village streets that we enjoy would fail to meet these standards and so either the rules ought to change, or it should be possible to copy the existing rules that define the village streets. That usually means shared surfaces, no kerbs and reduced vision splays.

4.2 Sunken lanes and landscaped banks

The character of the village is partly defined by the almost unique qualities of its principal streets. The sunken lanes with their banks and verges populated with wild flowers help to define the character of the place.

4.3 Community spaces

The character of the village is enhanced and punctuated by the local green spaces including Bury Green and its playground, The Wharf, Pill Pond, and The Glebe Field. Any future plans should ensure these spaces remain undeveloped and accessible to the public. Local historic orchards bring the agricultural character of the wider context into closer focus and the longer views over farmland place the village in its historic agrarian setting.

Particular features of buildings of local character

4.4 Prevailing typologies and detail

The village is made up of simple straightforward buildings. They are what they. Barns are barns. Cottages are cottages and so on. Buildings, their choice of materials and their detailing conform more to type than to a more universal application of wall or roof materials. That allows for a rich variety of shapes, sizes, and surfaces. Any new development should look closely at “the Street” and “Church Lane’ for its simple palette of materials and for architectural guidance.

4.5 Scale and type of development

There are very few multiple home developments. Some terraces address The Street and help to define it as a space. Any future development should avoid the tendency toward suburbanisation.

5.0 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Opportunities to make nature bigger, better, and more joined up

The long term aim should be to make Bury and West Burton and exemplary South Downs National park village in terms of character, landscape and ecology.

5.1 The A29

Following the success of the recent conference, the A29, as it approaches Bury Hill, should be promoted as an introduction the South Downs. There should be a landscape study from Bury Gate to the Whiteways roundabout that considered the A29 not as an arterial road but as unique space.

5.2 The River Arun and its embankment footpath

The river Arun cuts through the South Downs and potentially links Arundel with Pulborough. The public footpath is far from complete but, if it were continuous, its calm character and richly populated wildlife would provide a perfect contrast to the South Downs Way.

6.0 JOBS

Information about business you would like to protect and business opportunities that should be provided

Villages used to exist because of their jobs. Increasingly they are becoming dormitories or pretty places to retire to. It is a trend to be resisted. People in work are essential to the village maintaining a vibrant and optimistic view of the future.

6.1 Working from home

Since the pandemic, more people are choosing to spend a significant part of their week working from home. The pressure to adjust homes to accommodate this ought to be recognised and welcomed.

6.2 Agriculture and horticulture

The village is surrounded by farms. The farming community should be a part of village life and jobs associated with agriculture and horticulture should be welcomed.

Homes for such workers, however, should be subject to the criteria that supports the character of the village.

6.3 Schools

The village has two schools, the local primary school and Dorset House. Both are integrated into the structure of the village though it is arguable that any of their newer buildings make a significant contribution. If the schools generate further jobs, these should be welcomed but any further accommodation generated by such expansion should be carefully considered.

6.4 The Farm Shop

This has become something of a local institution and the parish would be the poorer without it. It is the result of a bold initiative by a local farmer and a project to be supported.

6.5 Hospitality

The Squire and Horse Pub is a popular and significant part of the community. Given the loss of the Black Dog and Duck in the heart of the village, this is a business that should be enthusiastically supported.

6.6 Businesses

Turners Garage is a valued facility, Carringdales is the largest employment site and the Rowsell's Coates Farm Shop is much valued in West Burton. All should be encouraged.

7. PUBLIC SPACES

Public Open Space, Public realm, Pocket Parks

The village has no 'green' and its centre is a cross roads and a park bench. Its public spaces are all the more valuable.

7.1 The Recreation Ground

Located outside the village on the A29 and feels remote. The busy road makes it dangerous for children to reach it and, consequently, it is only used by the Cricket Club. If it could be easier to get to, it would be a more (valuable social asset).

7.2 Bury Green

The play space behind the village hall. Though it is much loved, it is out of site. The plans for the village hall will help make it more connected. It is the space where the village gathers for outdoor events and is the natural location for the village marquee.

7.3 The Wharf

An open space next to the riverbank that is ideal for summer picnics. It could also be used more formally for village events.

7.4 Pill Pond and Coates sandpit

These are natural landscape assets. Pill Pond was recently reconfigured to a natural stream and Coates sandpit is a disused quarry now reclaimed by nature and now with nesting Sand Martins. They should both be protected landscapes and places to visit.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

Active travel priorities, roads and parking, community building needs, waste water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy

Managing the village's infrastructure is essential to both the daily wellbeing of those who live it and to the protection of the long character of the village.

8.1 The A29

This road should be an introduction to the South Downs. Development is increasingly characterising it as an arterial road that simply serves the businesses and communities that gain access from it. The A29 Road Improvement Committee has demonstrated that, from Bury gate to the Whiteways roundabout, it should be a landscape and feel comparable to the roads in the New Forest.

8.2 The village street pattern

These are lanes and should retain their historic character. A 20 mph speed limit could not only make the village safer, but it could also help to allow our lanes to be exempt from County Highways road standards which, if followed, destroy the very atmosphere we seek to retain.

8.3 Parking

An almost impossible problem to solve. The village streets are a parking area for those without parking spaces and for visitors and, all too often, those with parking space leave cars in the street for their own convenience. The village hall creates an additional demand which will only increase if its development proposals proceed. A study should be undertaken to alleviate the impact of cars on the village.

8.4 Energy

There is currently no policy for a community energy scheme. A study could reveal what potential there might be for a communal wind turbine, air source heat pumps

and, given the tidal nature of the river, even the possibility of a heat exchanger in the water similar to that at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

8.5 Broadband

The village will soon have a high speed broadband service accessible to almost every home. This should be maintained and, where possible, improved.

8.6 Social centre

The plans for the village hall include a community coffee shop and drop-in centre that builds on the village's highly successful coffee morning events. The plans will also help the building become a resilience centre in case of emergency.