East Dean & Friston Parish Council

**Date:** **18 January 2022**

**Title:** **Report Item 6 – Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register**

**By:** **D Picknell (Admin Officer)**

**Purpose:** **To note Consultation on the South Downs National Park Authority proposal for a local connection test for the Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Register**

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The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is required by law to keep a Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Register. The Register provides evidence of demand for self-build and custom housebuilding within the National Park. Anyone seeking land to build their own home can apply to be on the Register providing they are at least 18 years of age and they are a British citizen, or a national of a European Economic Area State or a national of Switzerland. The criteria can also include a local connection test.

The SDNPA is proposing a local connection test (see below) for those wanting to record their interest in building their own home by applying to be included on the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Register (the "Register").

**Consultation on the proposed local connection test is being carried out for eight weeks between Tuesday 11 January 2022 and Tuesday 08 March 2022.**

All responses to the consultation must be received **before midnight on Tuesday 08 March 2022**.

How to comment on the proposed local connection test is set out below.

Further details about the Register and the local connection test are also set out below. Any questions regarding this consultation may be referred to Kevin Wright in the Planning Policy Team by telephoning 01730 814810 or email planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk

Responses to the consultation must be made in writing and can be sent to the SDNPA in the following ways:

By email to planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk

By letter to Planning Policy, SDNPA, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

Proposed Local Connection Test

Any person that meets at least one of the following criteria when applying to be entered on the Self-build and Custom housebuilding register, is considered to have met the Local Connection Test and will be entered into Part 1 of the Register:

a) Have lived (as only home or principal residence) in the National Park (or in a split Parish, part of which is inside the National Park) continuously for at least the last two years; or

b) Have lived (as only home or principal residence) in the National Park (or in a split Parish, part of which is inside the National Park) continuously for three out of the last five years; or

c) Have immediate family* who have lived continuously in the National Park (or lived in a split Parish, part of which is inside the National Park) for at least the previous five years; or

d) Have been employed in the National Park for a minimum of 16 hours per week continuously for the last two years; or

e) You are a member of the armed forces, or an ex-member of the armed forces whose service ended within the last 5 years.

* Immediate family is defined as parents, adult siblings and adult children.

Further details

The effect of the local connection test is to separate the Register into Part 1 and Part 2.

Those applicants entered on Part 1 of the Register will meet the eligibility criteria and the local connection test. SDNPA has a duty to permit sufficient plots to meet the demand evidenced by the entries on Part 1 of the Register.

Those on Part 2 will meet the eligibility criteria only.

The entries on Part 1 and 2 of the Register will be taken into account by SDNPA when making planning decisions in the National Park.

Those on Part 2 of the Register can still build their own home in the National Park.

Being on Part 1 of the Register provides no entitlement to receive any plot permitted by the SDNPA.

Further information on the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register can be found at https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/self-build-custom-build/