

Link Councillor Report - SDNP - Michael Tu and John Bradley, October 2021

The SDNPA is preparing a Technical Advice Note (TAN) on community-based renewable energy proposals and they are inviting input from parish and town councils. The purpose of the TAN is to help applicants (householders, community organisations or local businesses) to make successful planning applications for micro-generation or community-based renewable energy schemes in the South Downs National Park (SDNP). Once published, the TAN will be a material consideration for development management.

They would like to hear what guidance and information parishes would like to see in the TAN. Currently it is proposed to include guidance on the following:

- What is micro-generation / community-based renewables?
- Do I need planning permission? Permitted Development Rights, Prior Approval
- Making a pre-app enquiry
- Submitting an application – what to include?
- Principles for considering appropriate location for renewables
- Principles for assessing impact on landscape
- Biodiversity and contributing to net gain
- Guidance on Policy SD51 criteria relating to loss of agricultural land
- Community Infrastructure Levy funding opportunities
- Case studies

Following a number of discussions we are comfortable that this represents a strong framework for SDNP to build on, and plan to feedback as such.

SDNP will take the draft TAN to their Planning Committee in January 2022, followed by a period of targeted consultation before the TAN is published, so there will be further opportunities to contribute.