

Judges' Citation RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2018

Category: Excellence in Plan Making Practice

Winner: Petworth Neighbourhood Plan

Petworth Town Council; South Downs National Park Authority

The making of the Petworth Neighbourhood Plan (12th July 2018) was the culmination of excellent partnership working between the Petworth Town Council and South Downs National Park Authority. It had to balance the wishes of the community and landscape protection with the need to deliver 150 new homes in the South Downs National Park.

The awards submission focussed on the substantial investment in engagement between the two authorities and with the community as well as the virtues of patient and ongoing communication which are commendable. However, the judges were particularly struck by the entrepreneurial nature with which the National Park Authority has learnt from its experience with the Petworth Neighbourhood Plan.

The National Park Authority has distilled best practice from this experience and is now replicating the process by offering a consultancy service to other Neighbourhood Plan groups within and outside of its boundary. By investing in a dedicated officer resource, it has generated in-house expertise which in turn generates a consultancy income.

For the award for Excellence in Plan Making Practice, the judges therefore wish to recognise:

- the quality of engagement between the two authorities;
- the investment in learning and replicating best practice by the National Park Authority; and
- the creative approach to sharing best practice and generating income by a local planning authority, by establishing a Neighbourhood Plan consultancy.

