Following last week's meeting Easebourne Parish Council would like to make it clear that the leaflet issued to residents was not authorised by the Parish Council.  In addition, the plans on the leaflet were not the allocations policy plans.

South Downs National Park ("SDNPA") is the statutory planning authority but it will delegate some decisions to Chichester District Council.  As the statutory planning authority SDNPA has to produce a local plan for the National Park areas which it is still in the process of doing.  In addition, it will have an annual housebuilding target across the National Park.  The allocations policy will enable SDNPA to look at how it might achieve its target for housebuilding.  It is rather a blunt housebuilding tool as the target is not ward/area specific and so housing need in areas is not always considered.

The Parish Council has requested a meeting with SDNPA to discuss the allocations policy and to share our concerns and those of residents raised at the meeting.  These will be reflected in the comments the Parish Council submits.  The allocations plan is then due to be discussed by SDNPA at its committee meeting on 15 June.

If SDNPA approves the allocations policy, the three sites identified will carry with them a presumption in favour of development but the landowner would still need to submit planning applications for the sites which would be considered in the usual way.  The flipside of this is that any other sites, not identified in the allocations policy, which are brought forward in the Parish, would not necessarily be considered suitable for development due to their omission from the allocations policy.