

Introduction

The Equality Act (2010) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who have a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not. 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, with due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Throughout its preparation, the CNPF has sought to ensure that the process was inclusive, fair, and accessible to all members of the community, including those with protected characteristics as defined by the Act. A range of consultation methods were employed to engage widely and effectively, including targeted efforts to reach underrepresented groups. The policies in the plan promote equality of opportunity, social inclusion, and accessibility, and the CNPF has actively considered the potential impacts of the plan on different sections of the community. As such, the plan supports the elimination of discrimination and the advancement of equality in line with national legal obligations.

During the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan, no requests were received for verbal or written communications to be translated into other languages. The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan has been in development since 2021 and over the past four years there has been much engagement with the local community encompassing numerous events and consultation activities. The engagement also included statutory and regulatory bodies. As outlined above, the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan has been formed following extensive public engagement, providing opportunities for the whole community to help shape the Plan. Residents were also asked to shape and contribute to the Visions and Objectives of the Plan, which are outlined below.

To remain a residential suburb of Brighton as a family friendly community with uninterrupted connection to Stanmer Park, the Wild Park and Highfields, all within the South Downs National Park. This vision aligns with the Equality Act 2010 by promoting a family-friendly, inclusive community with equitable access to high-quality green spaces such as Stanmer Park, the Wild Park, and Highfields. By preserving uninterrupted connections to these natural assets within the South Downs National Park, the plan supports the health and well-being of all residents, including those with protected characteristics. The emphasis on residential character and accessible open space contributes to advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations within a diverse and inclusive community.

Statistics

Data for the Parish of Coldean is available from the 2023 Local Insight Profile developed by Oxford Consultants for School Inclusion (OCSI) and Census 2021.

- Total Population: 3,000
- Age: 357 (0-15) / 2,206 (16-64) / 437 (65+) Dependency Ratio of 0.36.
- Gender: 48.9% Male & 51.1% Female
- Ethnicity: 76.8% of residents are White British / 15.9% Non-White / 7.3% Mixed
- Country of Birth: 83.8% of residents were born in the UK with 16.2% born outside of the UK.

- Main Language: English is the main language for all residents in 92.1% of households.
- Religion: 32.7% of residents are Christian; 52.6% of residents do not have a religion.

Process of Community Consultation

During the period since the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum was approved there have been 3 AGMs, 2 Vision and Objectives Meetings and 9 Forum Open Meetings, 34 emailed Updates to Forum members, and Consultees. A regularly maintained dedicated website and Facebook page have also been set up. There have been numerous surveys, subgroup meetings, forum committee meetings, consultations, consultation launch meetings, hard copies of documents made available for review in the Coldean Library and in local shops, informal discussions and formal discussions with other parties - i.e., the Local Planning Authority and the South Down's National Planning Authority. In addition, MP Sian Berry, other Elected Councillors, AECOM, Locality and Groundworks (Grants), have been informed of the development of the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan. Details are set out in the Consultation Statement which is available on the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum website and via this link: [CNPF Consultation Statement](#).

Impact Assessment

The Vision of Coldean Neighbourhood Plan states: 'To remain a residential suburb of Brighton as a family friendly community with uninterrupted connection to Stanmer Park, the Wild Park and Highfields, all within the South Downs National Park.' The Vision for Coldean aims to have a positive and inclusive impact on all members of the community, including those with protected characteristics. It places strong emphasis on ensuring equal access to local social, cultural, recreational, and environmental amenities, supporting a neighbourhood that is welcoming, accessible, and beneficial to everyone who lives, works, or visits Coldean.

The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan sets out a series of strategic objectives that outline how the community intends to deliver its vision for Coldean up to 2030. These objectives will be implemented through a combination of planning policies and community-led initiatives. Each objective has been reviewed to assess its potential impact on residents with protected characteristics, ensuring that the Plan promotes inclusivity, equality, and accessibility for all members of the community.

Objective	Impact	Policy	Notes
(a) <i>To preserve from development the existing green spaces in, and surrounding, the Neighbourhood Area.</i>	Positive	LGSI and LCS1	This objective supports the Equality Act 2010 by safeguarding local green spaces as inclusive, accessible areas that benefit the health, well-being, and quality of life of all community members, particularly those with protected characteristics. By protecting these spaces from development, the plan ensures ongoing equality of opportunity in access to nature and outdoor recreation, while also fostering social interaction and community cohesion across diverse groups.
(b) <i>To preserve and encourage a variety of wildlife habitats in those areas.</i>	Positive	E1 - E5	This objective supports the aims of the Equality Act 2010 by enhancing and protecting natural biodiversity in ways that contribute to the health and well-being of all residents, particularly those with limited access to private green space. By encouraging a variety of wildlife habitats, the plan promotes environmental quality and opportunities for inclusive community engagement with nature. This helps to advance equality of opportunity and fosters shared environmental awareness and cohesion across diverse groups within the community.

Objective	Impact	Policy	Notes
(c) To encourage families to live in Coldean by controlling the number of HMOs.	Positive	H1	This objective supports the aims of the Equality Act 2010 by promoting a balanced housing mix that encourages long-term family residency and helps foster a stable, inclusive community. By controlling the concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), the plan seeks to protect residential amenity and ensure housing diversity that meets the needs of families and other household types. The policy is designed to be proportionate and inclusive, avoiding discrimination by ensuring that adequate provision remains for all groups, including those more likely to live in HMOs, such as students or individuals on lower incomes.
(d) To improve the appearance of Coldean and thereby increase community identity.	Positive	H2 and DC1	This objective supports the Equality Act 2010 by aiming to improve the appearance of Coldean in a way that enhances community identity, pride, and cohesion. An improved and well-maintained environment benefits all residents, including those with protected characteristics, by promoting well-being, accessibility, and a stronger sense of belonging. When these improvements are designed inclusively and sensitively, they help to foster good relations across diverse groups and advance equality of opportunity by making public spaces welcoming and accessible to all.
(e) To work with other agencies to reduce crime and other anti-social behaviour.	Positive	C1	This objective supports the Equality Act 2010 by seeking to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working in a way that enhances safety, inclusion, and quality of life for all residents. A safer environment particularly benefits those who may be more vulnerable to harm or exclusion, thereby advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations within the community. The approach to crime reduction will be proportionate, inclusive, and free from discrimination, ensuring that all members of the community are treated fairly and with respect.
(f) To encourage retail diversity by improving the appearance of Coldean.	Positive	DC1	This objective aligns with the Equality Act 2010 by promoting a more inclusive and attractive local retail environment that supports a diverse range of shops and services. Enhancing the appearance of Coldean can encourage retail diversity that meets the needs of all residents, including those with protected characteristics. By fostering a welcoming and accessible local centre, the plan supports equality of opportunity, encourages community interaction, and helps build good relations across different groups within the neighbourhood.
(g) To increase accessibility to Green Open Spaces by traffic management and improve access to green spaces.	Positive	T1 - T6	This objective supports the Equality Act 2010 by improving safe and inclusive access to green open spaces through traffic management and accessibility enhancements. These measures help remove barriers faced by people with protected characteristics such as older residents, disabled individuals, and families with young children, thereby advancing equality of opportunity. By enabling all members of the community to access and enjoy natural spaces safely and confidently, the objective also fosters well-being and strengthens social cohesion within the neighbourhood.
(h) To promote sustainable development that helps Coldean to respond to the impacts of water scarcity, flooding, and climate change into the future.	Positive	E4 (d & e) and E5(e)	This objective supports the Equality Act 2010 by promoting sustainable development that enhances Coldean's resilience to water scarcity, flooding, and climate change. By addressing these environmental challenges, the plan seeks to protect all residents, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts, thereby advancing equality of opportunity. This approach fosters a safer, healthier, and more sustainable community, contributing to social cohesion and shared responsibility for the neighbourhood's future.

Conclusion

The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan sets out a comprehensive range of objectives and policies designed to deliver the community's vision in a way that benefits all residents, including those with protected characteristics. Throughout the preparation of the Plan, the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum has actively engaged with a broad cross-section of the local community to ensure inclusive participation and representation. In conclusion, this assessment finds the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and in accordance with the duty of care outlined in the Equality Act 2010.