



to be decommissioned and removed due to lack of use. Amberley Parish Council has not put in place any application to adopt them and it is likely they will be removed by the end of this year. It seems unlikely there is any opportunity now to initiate adoption and retain these two boxes, although if anyone was keen to see this happen, they could look into whether any possibility remains.

Adoption of phone boxes must be by the local authority - in this case, Amberley Parish Council. Anyone interested in pursuing adoption/retention of the boxes ought to know that at present, the Parish Council feels that the liabilities involved in doing so would be likely to outweigh the benefits. The Council would have to be persuaded otherwise in order to support any such scheme.

Further information about adoption is available at [http://www.payphones.bt.com/adopt\\_a\\_kiosk/HTML/payphone/index.htm](http://www.payphones.bt.com/adopt_a_kiosk/HTML/payphone/index.htm)

## **TAKE ACTION:**

### **Please respond to the draft National Planning Policy Framework consultation**

We are very concerned that the draft Framework could weaken the protection afforded to the South Downs National Park and could significantly impact on housing development in Amberley. The Government consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework closes next Monday - October 17, 2011. We ask members to respond urgently, both directly to the consultation itself and by copying their response to our local MP.

The Amberley Society wishes to see the draft Framework changed to:

- a. state that National Parks will receive the highest status of protection (as in current national planning policy).
- b. include reference to the statutory purposes of a National Park and the statutory requirement for all public bodies to have regard to those purposes.
- c. give stronger protection for National Parks in relation to quarrying, so that quarrying will not take place other than in exceptional circumstances (as now).
- d. protect the setting of National Parks from development which will have adverse impact on the special qualities of National Parks, including views over the setting which are a vital feature of the special qualities of many National Parks.
- e. have sustainable development defined in a way that reflects accepted principles of sustainability.
- f. prioritise brownfield land development.
- g. state how it will deliver the commitments in the Natural Environment White Paper, particularly in the National Parks.

In addition, a key concern is that the draft Framework will place considerable cost on local planning authorities, local communities and developers alike because of the uncertainty that it will create. Certainty would have to be re-established through the courts arising out of a large number of planning appeals which will slow down the planning process rather than speed it up.

You can respond to this consultation using the online form, or by e-mailing [planningframework@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planningframework@communities.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to: Alan C Scott, National Planning Policy Framework Department for Communities and Local Government, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

Please sign the National Trust petition at <https://www.planningforpeople.org.uk/?campid=PLAN1>  
Also, sign the 38 degrees petition at <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/save-our-countryside>  
and e-mail Nick Herbert MP at [herbertn@parliament.uk](mailto:herbertn@parliament.uk)

## **Annual General Meeting, February 24, 2012**

The date of this meeting has been changed to Friday, February 24 so that it does not clash with the school half-term holiday. This will be an important meeting where the Environment Agency will be discussing and answering our questions on LTRAS, its Lower Tidal River Arun Strategy.

Grahame Joseph  
Chairman