

## STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION – SEPTEMBER 2020

Consultation has been undertaken during the preparation of this document with consultees on the Council's Local Plan database.

The revised SCI has been produced by NFDC Policy Officers, taking full account of changes in national planning policy, government legislation, and statutory planning instruments (e.g. planning regulations).

The SCI only relates to Planning and is a statutory document which sets out the consultation and engagement methods that we will use to involve interested residents, groups, organisations, businesses and other representatives and individuals in the planning process. It explains who will be consulted, when and how. The document describes how we will involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation and review of planning policy documents and the consideration of planning applications. This revised version will replace the previous SCI adopted in 2015.

Yellow highlight text shows those changes that will be made to the amended SCI having considered the comments received through the July-August 2020 consultation.

### **Formal Consultation**

The draft revision was subject to 6 weeks of formal public consultation from Wednesday 8th July 2020 – Friday 21st August 2020 through the following elements:

- The revised SCI document was published for comment on the NFDC website, alongside a News Release to local media.
- The District Council directly consulted the bodies and individuals listed in Annex A.

## Summary of issues raised in consultation and recommended responses from NFDC

The following table sets out the main issues raised during the consultation of a revised SCI in July 2020 – August 2020 together with the recommended response of NFDC.

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
Copythorne Parish Council	General	Copythorne Parish Council are content with the statement as written	Welcomed. No change required.
Historic England	Appendix A	Please note, under Type A of Appendix A, you have referred to `The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage)`. This should be updated to `The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England)`, or simply, `Historic England`.	Agree. Amend Appendix A accordingly.
Highways England	General	Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). We will therefore be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case the A31, A36, M27 and M271.  We have reviewed the consultation and have no comments.	Welcomed. No change required.
Mr Christopher Beeton	Para 7.4. (List of possible consultees )  Appendix 1. Type A consultation bodies.	General: Suggest keeping future information and content/questionnaires online (reduces paper and other resources). But regarding development proposals, personal contact from planning officers is welcome at the parish level.  Many of these are far too distant and out of touch for consultation by NFDC with them to be meaningful. HCC should be the link to those bodies. The Environment Agency and Natural England in particular are renowned for their very general views and may well be in conflict with the very special requirements of NFDC and the New Forest.	Noted. No change required.  Noted. However, the Environment Agency and Natural England are statutory consultees and therefore must be consulted. No change required.

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
	Appendix 3. Who to engage with	<p>No mention of the local Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Questions the definitions of young people and older people. More age groups are needed and their differing requirements should be considered separately.</p> <p>Also questions the length of document – could be shorter. Little is achieved by making local consultation too detailed and complicated.</p>	<p><b>Add Forestry Commission to list of consultation bodies in the SCI</b> (the Forestry Commission is included in the NFDC Local Plan database and receives correspondence regarding consultations. But is not currently listed in the SCI).</p> <p>Noted. Different methods of engagement are set out in the statement, so as to gain as many views as possible.</p> <p>Noted. The document has been kept as short as possible.</p>
	Ringwood Town Council	The Town Council has considered the revised Statement of Community Involvement and has no comments to make.	Noted. No change required.
	Hythe & Dibden Parish Council	<p>The revised SCI is broadly supported by the Parish Council as it recognises the key stages for acknowledgement of planning applications of all sizes and the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>More needs to be done to make discussions on planning open and transparent and to work on any method that engages the community to discuss the positives and negatives on their community of a development. Could there be a targeted approach where we can create town focused versions of the Local Plan and avoid significant reading which may dissuade residents from reading our District Local Plan?</p> <p>In the current climate, the Council believes that it is important to use technology to reach out to as many groups and communities as possible to engage in planning as we are all impacted when something is built in our community.</p>	<p>Welcomed. No change required.</p> <p>Noted. No change required.</p> <p>Welcomed. NFDC has set out in the revised SCI how it will use additional methods of communication and engagement.</p>

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
Southern Water	<p>Stages of involving and consulting on DPDs (pages 8/9)</p> <p>Planning application stage (page 15)</p>	<p>Southern Water welcomes being included as a specific consultation body in Appendix 1 of the revised version of the SCI. This enables Southern Water to highlight planning policy issues that relate to provision of water and wastewater at an early stage in the plan preparation process.</p> <p>As well as publishing a 'summary of the comments' received at various stages, it would be useful if the Council's response to those representations could be published.</p> <p>Whilst not a statutory consultee on planning applications, it is important that Southern Water is consulted on applications that may impact on the provision of water and wastewater services to existing customers, for example, if the proposed development affects access to Southern Water's operational assets, including underground mains and sewers. Accordingly, it is suggested that 'Consult relevant infrastructure providers' is included in the column 'How the Council will publicise applications' in Appendix 4.</p>	<p>Noted. No change required.</p> <p>These are already published at each stage of the Local Plan preparation process.</p> <p>Southern Water are consulted on applications with its area. <b>But the council agrees to add 'Consult relevant infrastructure providers' is included in the column 'How the Council will publicise applications' in Appendix 4.</b></p>
Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	<p>General</p> <p>Map</p> <p>Working with Others</p>	<p>No mention of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A Planning Protocol between this AONB and its constituent local planning authorities has been in place for 15 years, covering both policy planning and development management.... It would be helpful to include the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to 'Type A, Specific Consultation Bodies' in Appendix 1.</p> <p>It would aid further understanding of the sensitivity of the area if the AONB designation was shown on the map.</p> <p>Engagement with the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty could be included in the Duty to Cooperate on page 11.</p> <p>It might be prudent to indicate that the preparation of a neighbourhood plan is not a simple or quick process. In the light of our experience this AONB strongly recommends that Appendix 3 should be clear that neighbourhood plan groups</p>	<p><b>Agreed – The AONB will be added to the list in Type A of Appendix 1.</b></p> <p>Noted, but the purpose of the map is to clarify the Local Planning Authorities that cover the New Forest. No change required.</p> <p><b>Agree. Suitable text will be added to this section.</b></p> <p>Noted. No change required.</p>

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
		<p>should engage with the AONB at an early stage if any of the area falls within the AONB designation or its setting.</p> <p>The additional section on Community Involvement and Development Management is a particularly helpful addition to this Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>This AONB office finds that the public has a tendency to contact it when they perceive a process or procedure appears not to be followed.... advise that in your neighbour notification process, you regularly include the neighbour on the opposite side of the road from an application site rather than simply those that have common boundaries with the site.</p>	<p>Welcomed. No change required.</p> <p>Noted. However, the council believes that the existing procedure is straight forward and easy to understand for residents.</p>
Pennyfarthing Homes	<p>General</p> <p>9.15</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>Section 4</p>	<p>Pennyfarthing (PFH) comments should be read in the context of the present system.</p> <p>The SCI must recognise that the engagement process cannot hinder the timely determination of planning applications, must recognise the commercial interests of the applicant and accord with pre-agreed programmes.</p> <p>The SCI should seek to encourage effective community engagement in a manner that does not hinder the development process.</p> <p>Flexibility in relation to amendments of planning applications is welcomed. The SCI notes that where such amendments will assist the determination process and make a contribution to the early release and supply of housing the Council will reasonably and positively apply discretion. Paragraph 38 of the NPPF applies in this respect.</p> <p>Reference is made to the LDS that is now out of date and requires revision.</p>	<p>Noted. No change required.</p> <p>Noted. No change required.</p> <p>Welcomed. No change required.</p> <p>The LDS is a standalone document and is updated via a separate process to the SCI update. No change required.</p> <p>Noted. No change required.</p>

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
		A number of draft SPD's were produced in order to support the new Local Plan, none of which have got beyond the Reg 12 stage. Therefore, none of these documents carry any weight in the determination of planning applications.	
Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society (PALLS)	<p>Section 4</p> <p>Preface</p> <p>Section 9</p>	<p>Section 4. Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document preparation should not only specify how the Council will provide information to communities, but also specify how they will engage with them, how the Council will respond to the feedback they receive and how the results of consultation will be reflected in the final outcome. This would necessitate changes to Table 1 and Table 2.</p> <p>The revised Preface notes that the revisions that respond to Covid 19 are temporary but has re-moved all references to events held for the visiting public such as exhibitions or workshops. These should be reinstated and noted that they would be subject to the relaxation/cessation of restrictions to allow them to take place.</p> <p>PALLS welcomes inclusion of new Section 9 but considers that the wording is too weak and does not fulfil the Council's commitment set out in the Introduction.</p> <p>Following comments were made regarding Section 9 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strongly support references in para 9.1. to the role of community involvement in identifying other material considerations and shaping proposals.</li> <li>- The Council should include an expectation that applicants or developers consult with communities prior to submitting planning applications on major developments and report to the Council on the process they have undertaken, the responses received and how the planning application has been modified and addresses the is-sues and/or concerns raised as a result of the consultation.</li> <li>- para 9.4 should go further and quote the rest of paragraph 020 of the National Planning Practice Guidance which states, <i>"including the identification of the communities to involve, the process of engagement</i></li> </ul>	<p>Tables 1 and 2 set out the steps the council will take in considering all comments received. The council publishes responses at statutory stages of Local Plan production.</p> <p>Given the regular changes in Government guidance relating to Covid19 pandemic, the Council does not consider this to be necessary.</p> <p>Noted. See response to Para 9.1 – 9.4 below.</p> <p>NFDC will shortly be consulting on its Local 1App requirements, and this comment may be more appropriate for that consultation.</p> <p>No change required. NFDC must follow NPPF requirements and the relevant regulations with</p>

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
		<p><i>and the best approach to incorporating their views.</i> If the developer/applicant fails to properly consult communities prior to submitting a planning application, then the Council should make it clear that it will carry out the consultation instead, which would be likely to increase the time taken to deal with the application.</p>	<p>regards to public engagement. The SCI reflects those requirements.</p>
The Lymington Society		<p>Detailed comments received, which in summary related to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of routine consultation with amenity societies as either Statutory or even Non-Statutory Consultees on planning applications.</li> <li>- The introduction of major strategic sites such as SS6 and others at Local Plan regulation 19 stage, without proper prior announcement of these sites at the regulation 18 stage. The Society recommends that the Council fully respects the SCI when preparing Local Plans and ensures that proper timescales for consultation are followed giving full, and comprehensive details of all sites included in the local plan proposal.</li> <li>- The Council has generally not involved the community in any pre-application schemes or pre-application discussions in the past. Use of "Planning Performance Agreements" should be contemplated as a routine procedure.</li> <li>- Understand the commercial considerations.... but the Society urges that far more transparency is given to all pre-application discussion at an early stage so that the community can be fully involved in the development of all major or controversial developments.</li> <li>- Recommends that Officers' considered recommendation on the planning issues raised in connection with a planning application should be posted much earlier in the process to allow the community to fully assess the Officers' recommendation and respond accordingly.</li> </ul>	<p>No change required. The council is content that planning applications are consulted in line with statutory procedures.</p> <p>No change required. The council complied with all Town and Country Planning Regulations during the preparation of the latest Local Plan strategy. This was tested at examination by independent inspectors.</p> <p>No change required. But the council is formally considering how the Pre-App process can be better integrated for appropriate development.</p> <p>See above</p> <p>No change required. Officers recommendations will only be finalised at the end of the process once all comments are received.</p>

Organisation	Section of draft SCI the comments relate to	Issue Summary	NFDC Recommended Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apart from changes in policy or preparation of Local Plans, the Council does not regularly consult with non-statutory consultees, even for the most contentious development proposals or planning applications. Lymington Society are recognised as stakeholders in the planning process and as such should be properly consulted on major developments or those involving listed buildings or conservation areas.</li> <li>- In relation to the Planning Committee.... a maximum of three minutes is allowed for proponents and opponents of an application, no matter how big or small the application... Three people or organisations wish to speak either in favour or in opposition to an application, they are required to share the three minutes, whether they represent several hundred people or just an individual.... this is an extremely unfair restriction on proper community involvement, particularly for large applications or contentious applications. The Society urges the removal of the current three-minute limit for larger or controversial planning applications.</li> </ul>	<p>A parish briefing is posted shortly after registration.</p> <p>Noted. The Society will be added to the council's weekly list to be notified of all apps.</p> <p>The Chair of the Planning Committee is free to consider this and make extensions if felt necessary and on major schemes this may well be considered.</p>
Mr S Patch		Comments in relation to adopted strategic site SS5 and SS6 of the Local Plan	These comments did not relate to proposed changes to the SCI
Rose Baylis		Comments in relation to adopted strategic site SS6 of the Local Plan	These comments did not relate to proposed changes to the SCI

## **Annex A - List of bodies and individuals the Council directly consulted regarding the revised Statement of Community Involvement (July - August 2020)**

Local residents who have expressed a wish to be consulted on future planning matters.

Sandleheath Parish Council  
Burley Parish Council  
Southern Water  
Natural England  
East Boldre Parish Council  
New Milton Town Council  
Sway Parish Council  
Ringwood Town Council  
Homes England  
Lymington and Pennington Town Council  
West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council  
CTIL Infrastructure  
Ringwood Town Council  
Bournemouth water  
Fawley Parish Council  
New Milton Town Council  
National Grid  
Hampshire County Council  
Fordingbridge Town Council  
Hampshire County Council  
Dorset Council  
Historic England  
Hyde Parish Clerk  
Hythe and Dibden Parish Council  
Burton Parish Council  
Rockbourne Parish Council  
Bransgore Parish Council  
Romsey Extra Parish Council  
Hampshire County Council  
National Grid plc  
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council  
National Grid  
Boldre Parish Council  
Health and Safety Executive  
Hampshire County Council  
Totton & Eling Town Council  
Netley Marsh Parish Council

Downton Parish Council  
Godshill Parish Council  
Bramshaw Parish Council  
Environment Agency  
Marchwood Parish Council  
Martin Parish Council  
Minstead Parish Council  
Sopley Parish Council  
St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council  
Wellow Parish Council  
Verwood Town Council  
Whitsbury Parish Council  
Woodgreen Parish Council  
Bishopstone Parish Council  
Alderholt Parish Council  
Breamore Parish Council  
Brockenhurst Parish Council  
Copythorne Parish Council  
Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council  
Damerham Parish Council  
Denny Lodge Parish Council  
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council  
Exbury & Lepe Parish Council  
Hale Parish Council  
Hordle Parish Council  
Lyndhurst Parish Council  
Broad Chalke Parish Council  
Coombe Bissett Parish Council  
Landford Parish Council

Odstock Parish Council  
Redlynch Parish Council  
Stratford Tony Parish Council  
Nursling & Rownhams Parish Council  
Bowerchalke Parish Council  
Godshill Parish Council  
Eastleigh Borough Council Planning Policy and Design Team  
Highways England  
Test Valley Borough Council  
Network Rail Town Planning  
Network Rail Town Planning  
Planning Policy Dorset County Council  
Planning Policy Southampton City Council  
New Forest National Park Authority  
Development Planning Manager RWE npower  
The Coal Authority  
Partnership for South Hampshire  
Milford on Sea Parish Council  
Lymington and Pennington Town Council  
Wessex Water  
Hampshire County Council  
Southern Gas Networks  
Head Office Scottish and Southern Energy  
Powergen E.ON  
British Gas  
Entec UK Ltd  
IOW Council  
Enterprise M3 c/o Economic Development Team Hampshire County Council  
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership  
Hampshire Local Nature Partnership  
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire  
BT Openreach South West  
MBNL  
River catchment Coordinator New Forest Environment Agency  
River catchment Coordinator Test & Itchen Environment Agency  
Scottish and Southern Energy  
Network Investment Engineer Scottish and Southern Energy

Public Health, Adults Health and Care Hampshire County Council  
Hampshire County Council - Childrens Services Department  
Primary Care Commissioning Support Manager South Region (Wessex) NHS England  
Estates and Development Services Hampshire County Council  
Hampshire County Council  
Historic England  
Wessex Water  
Hampshire County Council Property Services  
Office of Rail and Road  
Hurn Parish Council  
Beaulieu Parish Council