

REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION – JANUARY 2025

Consultation has been undertaken during the preparation of this document with consultees on the Council's Local Plan database and through wider dissemination via social media channels, news release, and website announcements.

The revised Statement of Community Involvement (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 2020.

Yellow highlight text shows those changes that will be made to the amended SCI having considered the comments received through the October – December 2024 consultation.

Formal Consultation

The draft revision was subject to 6 weeks of formal public consultation from Wednesday 23 October – Friday 6 December 2024 through the following elements:

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

Summary of comments received

Most consultees welcome the message and general commitment to meaningful public engagement laid out in the SCI. However, there were criticisms that the SCI did not include enough tangible detail about how to meaningfully engage the public, with some feeling that the document may not result in noticeable benefits to the public. There were some specific recommendations regarding updates to legislation/organisation names, the inclusion of new organisations as statutory consultees, and specific ways to alter the methods of engagement.

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 October 2024 – December 2024 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, and confirm their agreement to it.	Welcomed. No change required.
Cranborne Chase National Landscape (CCNL)	1.8; 2.15/16; Section 5; 6.22; Appendix 1, 1.2; Appendix 5	1.8: s.245 of LURA 2023 amended s.85 of CRoW Act 2000, from being a duty of regard, to being more pro-active and challenging. Amend 1.8 to cover that statutory change. 2.15/16: mention that NFDC is an active partner in CCNL partnership, statutorily the NL Management Plan is the Council's policy for management of the CCNL. Section 5: CIL payments from developments in CCNL should be used on projects within and to the benefit of the CCNL.	Agreed. Amend paragraph 1.8 accordingly. Agreed. New Paragraph after 2.17 to reflect this. Noted. NFDC will take account of CCNL needs in appraising CIL projects.

		<p>6.22: consultees should be reconsulted on post-decision amendments as what may be non-material to one officer, may be material in the context of the National Landscape.</p> <p>Appendix 1, para 1.2: Highways England is now known as National Highways.</p> <p>Appendix 5: consultation should take place on certificates of lawfulness, prior notifications for agricultural buildings/changes of use.</p>	<p>Noted. The criteria determining whether an amendment is deemed non-material is laid out in the Government's Planning Policy Guidance. Material amendments are consulted upon. No change to SCI needed.</p> <p>Agreed. Amend Appendix 1, paragraph 1.2 accordingly.</p> <p>Certificates of lawfulness and prior approvals are decided based on compliance to The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. If applications comply with the legislation, the council cannot refuse them. No change to SCI needed.</p>
CPRE Hampshire	General; 2.2; 2.10; Table 3; 1.8	<p>General: welcome the commitment in the introduction and reference to meaningful public consultation. Do not feel draft provides means / opportunity for meaningful / effective participation at sufficiently early stage of plan-making process.</p> <p>2.2: no explanation of meaning of 'targeted consultations'. Not in alignment with NPPF, para 16 (2.5) as community consultation should take place prior to the emerging options stage.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed. Paragraph 2.2 and Tables 1 and 2 amended to explain the point at which</p>

		<p>Table 3/2.10: clarify who will be consulted on scope of Plan at early preparation stage and encourage/consider community input at this stage.</p> <p>Table 3: appears to be exclusive reliance on digital media consultation methods: should not be sole means of communication. Consultation methods in para. 4.4 in respect of Neighbourhood Plans should be used by NFDC to engage local communities in preparation of Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.</p> <p>1.8: Should refer to enhanced duty in LURA 2023 to 'seek to further' purposes of National Park, rather than 'having regard to' (CRoW 2000)</p>	<p>targeted consultations are to take place and with who.</p> <p>Agreed. Minor amendment to Table 3 clarify the scope of consultation.</p> <p>Noted. Paragraph 4.4 in relation to Neighbourhood Plans only suggests the methods listed - it does not require them. No change to SCI required.</p> <p>Agreed. Paragraph 1.8 to be amended accordingly.</p>
Fordingbridge Town Council	General	<p>Document is generic in format, content and commitments. More consideration should be given to local factors, including how to engage hard-to-reach groups and those not traditionally involved. More commitment and consideration to innovative methods to achieve local ways of doing things. More should be said about bespoke consultation/ engagement with Parish/Town Councils, especially those most affected.</p> <p>NFDC should commit to biannual Parish/Town Forum meetings for NFDC briefings, including local plan progress and legislation changes.</p>	<p>Noted. The SCI does not prevent the council from utilising further measures, over and above the minimum set out in the SCI. Different consultations may require different approaches and the SCI allows flexibility to explore those methods. Where it needs to go further NFDC will do so.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

<p>Hampshire County Council</p>	<p>Appendix 1, 1.6; General</p>	<p>Appendix 1, 1.6: appreciate explicit inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Suggest setting out engagement with low-income families as well.</p> <p>General: greater efforts to engage with schools/universities to reach children/younger adults.</p> <p>Include <i>Hampshire County Council – Public Health</i> as a consultee / stakeholder.</p> <p>Replace NHS West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group with NHS Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board.</p> <p>Gunning principles are a measure of robust community engagement aims, and a legal consideration.</p>	<p>Noted. NFDC will seek to engage with all residents. Where it can identify methods to reach certain groups it will do so.</p> <p>Agreed. These groups are listed in Appendix 1 (para 1.6). NFDC will consider how best to engage with younger demographics. No change required.</p> <p>Agreed. It will be included under the existing 'Other Government organisations not already listed in Type B' category. No change required.</p> <p>Agreed. Amendment to Appendix 1 entry to be made.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>The Lymington Society</p>	<p>General</p>	<p>The Lymington Society welcomes the Council's commitment to meaningful public consultation and engaging with local people. However, they feel that the operation of the planning system does not reflect the previous SCI, and the current SCI does not do enough to overcome the disadvantage the community is at in the planning system.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

		<p>The Council should adhere to the Gunning Principles and fully respect the SCI when preparing Local Plans. Proper timescales for consultation should be followed. All sites included in the local plan proposal should be consulted on, with "conscientious consideration" given to all consultee responses before decisions are made.</p> <p>There should be more transparency given to pre-application discussions at an early stage so the community can be fully involved in major/controversial developments.</p> <p>Officers' recommendation on 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 (specific reference to committee).</p> <p>NFDC should compile a list of Amenity Societies to be made statutory consultees for major/controversial planning applications, and those involving listed buildings. These bodies should receive the weekly distribution list also sent to parishes.</p> <p>The current three-minute time limit at Planning Committee should be removed for larger or controversial planning applications.</p>	<p>NFDC publishes preparation of plan and document timetables as required in its Local Development Scheme.</p> <p>Noted. Early public engagement is encouraged by the NPPF and NFDC - but disclosures will be at the discretion of the applicant. By default discussions will be withheld from the public domain owing to commercial sensitivity.</p> <p>Noted. Beyond the remit of the SCI.</p> <p>Weekly list is already available, and any individual can be added to the distribution list.</p> <p>Noted. Not within remit of SCI. No change required.</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>M.W. Private Individual</p>	<p>General</p>	<p>Greater effort should be given to ensuring that all who may be affected receive letters about planning applications – e.g. roads which will be affected by off-site parking provision.</p> <p>The Council should monitor businesses in residential areas.</p> <p>Disabled people should receive letters, and not be reliant on site notices.</p> <p>Ambulances/emergency vehicles should be consulted about their access routes.</p> <p>Allowances should be made for properties to have extra living space in purpose-built, eco-friendly outbuildings to accommodate multigenerational living, esp. elderly parents/carers.</p> <p>Site notices should be different colours depending on whether residential/commercial.</p>	<p>Noted. This is at the discretion of the case officer. No change needed.</p> <p>Noted. However, this is not within the remit of the SCI.</p> <p>Noted. However, it is not feasible to identify those individuals who might wish to see such notices. NFDC already goes beyond the statutory requirements by writing to adjacent neighbours <u>and</u> posting a site notice.</p> <p>Noted. This falls under the remit of Hampshire County Council (as the Highways Authority) or the Hampshire Fire Service, with whom NFDC consult on a case by case basis. No change needed.</p> <p>Noted. However, this is not within the remit of SCI.</p> <p>Noted. No change is deemed necessary.</p>
---	----------------	---	---

		Site notices should be posted at each end of a road, if the whole road will be affected.	Noted. This is at the discretion of the case officer. NFDC sends letters and a site notice, which is over and above the requirements. On major development a news release will often be sent out. No change is deemed necessary.
New Forest National Park Authority	General	Suggest using a mechanism such as New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC) to improve the communication links to town and parish councils.	Agreed. NFDC will reach out directly to NFALC.
Southern Water	General	No comments.	Noted. No change required.
Transition Lymington	Appendix 3; General	<p>Appendix 3: Transition Lymington wish to be listed under 'Commuters' and/or 'Community groups and societies' and receive targeted communications related to the SO41 postcode and cycling/cycling-related road (and associated) infrastructure.</p> <p>General: develop a single SPD focused on Active Travel – currently, mentions of which are scattered across SPDs 1-3. This is likely to improve clarity, enhancing community group engagement, and ensure new development Transport Statements/Travel Plans are more evidence-based.</p>	<p>Noted. Transition Lymington will be consulted as part of the 'Community groups and societies' (Appendix 3).</p> <p>Noted. However, this is not within the remit of the SCI. The Local Plan Review will appraise the policy approach for this. No change required.</p>
Stephen Morris	General	<p>Critical of the format of public consultation.</p> <p>Planning system too complicated for the public to engage with.</p>	Noted. Most of the planning processes and inherent requirements are set nationally. No change required.

Fawley Parish Council	Appendix 5, 1.1	Neighbour notification area should be made wider, including those on the other side of the road. In the case of community assets, the wider community should also be notified.	Noted. Site notice deemed to be sufficient. No change needed.
-----------------------	-----------------	--	---

Annex A

List of bodies and individuals the Council directly consulted regarding the revised Statement of Community Involvement (October-December 2024)

Local residents, developers, and agents who have expressed a wish to be consulted on future planning matters. In addition:

Alderholt Parish Council
Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council
Beaulieu Parish Council
Bishopstone Parish Council
Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP)
Boldre Parish Council
Bowerchalke Parish
Burley Parish Council
Burton Parish Council
Bransgore Parish Council
Bramshaw Parish Council
Breamore Parish Council
Brockenhurst Parish Council
Broad Chalke Parish Council
Copythorne Parish Council
Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Campaign to Protect Rural England (Hampshire)
Cranborne Chase National Landscape

Damerham Parish Council
Denny Lodge Parish Council
Dorset Council
Downton Parish Council
East Boldre Parish Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council
Environment Agency
Exbury & Lepe Parish Council
Fawley Parish Council
Fordingbridge Town Council
Forestry England
Godshill Parish Council
Go South Coast (bus operator)
Hampshire County Council
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner)
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Hale Parish Council
Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Highways England

Homes England
Hordle Parish Council
Hurn Parish Council
Hyde Parish Clerk
Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
Isle of Wight Council
Landford Parish Council
Lymington and Pennington Town Council
Lyndhurst Parish Council
Martin Parish Council
Marine Management Organisation
Minstead Parish Council
Marchwood Parish Council
Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council
Ministry of Defence
Milford on Sea Parish Council
Mobile UK (mobile network operators)
Natural England
National Grid plc
National Gas
National Highways
National Trust
Netley Marsh Parish Council
New Forest National Park Authority
Network Rail
New Milton Town Council
NHS West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Nursling & Rownhams Parish Council
Odstock Parish Council
Partnership for South Hampshire

Redlynch Parish Council
Ringwood Town Council
Rockbourne Parish Council
Romsey Extra Parish Council
Sandleheath Parish Council
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council
Southern Water
Southampton City Council
South West Water
South Western Railway
Sopley Parish Council
Sport England
St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council
SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy)
Test Valley Borough Council
The Coal Authority
Totton & Eling Town Council
Theatres Trust
Verwood Town Council
Wellow Parish Council
Wessex Water
Whitsbury Parish Council
Wiltshire Council
Woodgreen Parish Council