

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**HYDE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

Paper by: Paula Freeland, Head of Environmental Design

**Summary:**

This report provides a brief background to the Village Design Statement initiative, presents a Village Design Statement produced by Hyde Parish and seeks endorsement of that Statement.

**Recommendations:**

- 1 That members support the work undertaken by the local community in producing the Hyde Village Design Statement; and endorse its contents.**
- 2 That some elements of the Statement are incorporated in the Authority's Building Design guide Supplementary Planning Document.**
- 3 That the Statement is included at an appropriate time in the Local Development Scheme, for adoption within the Local Development Framework.**

**Resources and Corporate Plan:**

Corporate Plan A4 – Develop spatial planning policies to support the delivery of the National Park's purposes and duties, working jointly with constituent and adjacent authorities.

**Papers:**

NFNPA 207/07: Cover paper

NFNPA 207/07: Annex B Hyde Village Design Statement

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**1 Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of Hyde Village Design Statement by the Authority.
- 1.2 In 1996 the Countryside Agency (then Countryside Commission) produced a document 'Village Design, Making local character count in a new development'. This document provided detailed advice on what a Village Design Statement is and how to undertake one.
- 1.3 Village Design Statements are intended to influence the operation of the statutory planning system but they can also have a significant influence on change which can take place outside the statutory process. They are intended to provide a context for new development based on local character or sense of place. They are designed to help manage change, at whatever scale it occurs. They are not about whether development should take place; but rather about how planned development should be carried out, so that it is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the local environment.
- 1.4 The Countryside Agency set out the following objectives for Village Design Statements:
  - to describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside;
  - to show how character can be identified at three levels:
    - the landscape setting of the village,
    - the shape of the settlement,
    - the nature of the buildings themselves;
  - to draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character;
  - to work in partnership with the local planning authority in the context of existing local planning policy, and to influence future policies.

- 1.5 Local communities have a unique appreciation and understanding of their own place, and a Village Design Statement is based on that knowledge. It should describe the qualities and characteristics that people value in their village and its surroundings and it should set out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in the village, based on that character.

## **2 Hyde Village Design Statement**

- 2.1 Hyde Parish has for some time been working on the preparation of a Village Design Statement which is now complete. Work began on the Statement before the National Park Authority took up its full powers and was therefore initially undertaken in consultation with New Forest District Council. It was also started before the full introduction of the new plan-making (Local Development Framework) system. During the last year the Authority has liaised with the parish in the preparation of the final draft and has assisted in the final presentation of the document.
- 2.2 Hyde Village Design Statement is attached as **Annex 1**. The Statement follows the framework recommended by the Countryside Agency.
- 2.3 The Village Design Statement has been the subject of a number of public consultation exercises. The Parish produced a Parish Plan in 2005; and the Design Statement was part of the implementation of that Plan. In April 2004 there was a “drop-in” event at which residents were asked to make known areas of concern; village organisations were also consulted directly. A questionnaire was then devised by a professional market researcher and this was distributed to every adult in the Parish. 60% of the questionnaires were returned. The result of this consultation showed an overwhelming majority of residents were concerned about planning issues and a group was formed to write the Village Design Statement. In 2006 the completed draft Statement was sent to all members of the Parish Council for their comments and then, at the Annual open meeting of the Parish Council on 24 May 2007, the draft Design Statement was displayed for all residents to view and comment upon. On 26 May there was a further display and consultation for all residents. Finally the draft was once again circulated to all members of the Parish Council.
- 2.4 The Authority has assisted in linking the document to current relevant planning policy and in the final presentation of the document.

### **3 Status of the document**

- 3.1 In addition to broadening understanding of the key elements which make up the character of an area, Village Design Statements can be used locally to influence choices which do not require planning permission, such as many boundary treatments and other small changes.
- 3.2 The document will also be a material consideration in Development Control decisions, will be available on the National Park website, the parish website and generally available to anyone proposing to undertake work in the area.
- 3.3 The Village Design Statement does not have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document at present. Steps will be taken to include the document in a future review of the Authority's Local Development Scheme, which could then lead to its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document. However the review will not take place until Government amendments to the Local Development Framework process have been made.
- 3.4 The Authority is nevertheless preparing a Building Design Guide for the National Park, which will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. The contents of the Hyde Village Design Statement will be taken into account and where appropriate incorporated into the Design Guide.
- 3.5 Part of the area covered by the Village Design Statement is in New Forest District Council's area. The District Council has advised that it intends to adopt the Hyde Village Design Statement as a Supplementary Planning Document provided there is no conflict with policies in the local plan and the appropriate procedures regarding consultation and Sustainability Appraisal have been met.

### **Recommendations**

- 1 That members support the work undertaken by the local community in producing the Hyde Village Design Statement; and endorse its contents.**
- 2 That some elements of the Statement are incorporated in the Authority's Building Design guide Supplementary Planning Document.**
- 3 That the Statement is included at an appropriate time in the Local Development Scheme, for adoption within the Local Development Framework.**