

**AM 627/22**

## **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

### **AUTHORITY MEETING – 14 JULY 2022**

#### **HYDE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT SPD - ADOPTION**

**Report by:** David Illsley, Policy & Conservation Manager

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The first Hyde Village Design Statement - covering the whole of the parish (including the settlements of Hyde, Frogham, Stuckton, Hungerford, Blissford and North Gorley) – was drawn up in 2007 by a group of local residents and parish councillors. The current Hyde Village Design Statement was formally adopted by the Authority as a supplementary planning document in June 2012 following a period of public consultation.
- 1.2 In the decade since the adoption of the Hyde Village Design Statement there have been significant changes in both national and local policy and design guidance. Hyde Parish Council is keen to update their Village Design Statement to ensure it is still afforded weight in planning decision-making as a supplementary planning document. This requires the revised document to be subject to public consultation, the consideration of comments received, and a formal decision of the full Authority.
- 1.3 The revised Hyde Village Design Statement does not attempt to summarise the wealth of national design policy and guidance; instead it has been prepared to engage local people. The introduction (page 2) states, “*This design statement has a single aim - to protect and preserve the character of Hyde Parish, in keeping with the wishes of residents...the measure of the success of the VDS will be the extent to which new buildings sit in harmony with the environment of Hyde.*” At the April 2022 Planning Committee meeting, the revised draft Hyde Village Design Statement was approved for the purposes of a 6-week public consultation (report PC 391/22).

#### **2. Public consultation on the revised draft Hyde Village Design Statement**

- 2.1 Following approval at the April 2022 Planning Committee meeting, the 6-week public consultation on the revised draft Hyde Village Design Statement ran from 6 May – 17 June 2022 in accordance with the Authority’s Statement of Community Involvement and the relevant national planning regulations.
- 2.2 Further detail on the consultation undertaken between May and June are set out in the ‘Consultation Statement’ that forms Annex 2 to this report. The consultation included:
  - Over 200 statutory and general consultees were directly notified of the start of the consultation. This included neighbouring town and parish councils, local stakeholder groups, statutory consultees (e.g. Historic England) and local planning agents.
  - The revised draft Hyde Village Design Statement was made available on the Authority’s website and for inspection during office hours at Lymington Town Hall.

- A press release was issued to local media outlets, summarising the role of the draft Village Design Statement, the consultation period, how comments could be made and where the document could be viewed. A formal press notice was also issued.
- The consultation was actively promoted through the Authority’s social media channels, including Facebook (34,100 followers) and Twitter (15,400 followers).
- The revised Village Design Statement was available for viewing at the Annual Hyde Parish meeting on 17 May 2022. Information on the public consultation was also set out in the May parish newsletter which is delivered to every dwelling in the parish.

### 3. Summary of the main issues raised and how they have been addressed

- 3.1 During the consultation period on the revised Hyde Village Design Statement responses were submitted by 12 individuals and organisations. There was a range of respondents, including statutory consultees (e.g. Natural England, Hampshire County Council); local stakeholders (e.g. the Commoners’ Defence Association); and local residents. The level of response is relatively low, but perhaps not surprising given the tight geographical focus of the Village Design Statement on the parish of Hyde (circa 900 residents). With every household in the parish having been directly notified of the 6-week consultation, it is clear that there was an opportunity to respond.
- 3.2 The Consultation Statement (Annex 2) provides more detail on the main points raised in the responses and how they have been addressed in the document now presented for adoption. It should be noted that the Authority is not required to list and address every single point raised during the consultation, only the main issues raised. Over 40 individual comments made on the draft Village Design Statement and some of the main issues included:

*Summary of the main issues raised during the consultation*

- The Statement should give appropriate consideration to the impact of development on the nationally protected landscape of the New Forest and include reference to the New Forest National Park Landscape Character Assessment.
- References to the nature conservation designations in the parish should cover the range of local – national designations.
- The Statement should highlight the need for new development to consider impacts on the public rights of way network.
- Encouragement should be given for eco-friendly housing and sustainable construction in the parish.
- The Statement should include greater coverage of traffic-related issues in the parish and set out how the impacts associated with visitor traffic will be addressed.
- Should include coverage on how issues associated with the increase in camping sites and visitor pressures (e.g. out of control dogs) will be addressed.
- Suggestions for how the format and flow of the document could be improved.
- Reference should be included regarding the need to avoid illegal encroachment onto the Open Forest; and also the need to protect the back-up grazing land resource to support the role of commoning in land management.

- 3.3 A number of respondents raised points that went beyond the remit of a Village Design Statement, including comments around the impacts of traffic on the parish, visitor pressures and concerns over second home ownership. In reviewing all of the comments received, officers are clear that the focus of the Design Statement means these issues cannot be addressed through changes to the document. However, all of the consultation points raised have been considered by officers in close liaison with Hyde parish councillors and some non-design related points will be picked up by the parish council in their work with the local community in Hyde.
- 3.4 The feedback also highlighted areas where the revised draft Statement can be positively strengthened. The Consultation Statement (Annex 2) provides details on how the main points raised have been addressed, including a number of areas where the text and layout of the Village Design Statement have been amended.

*Summary of the main changes to the Design Statement in response to feedback*

- Additional wording added highlighting the contribution boundary hedgerows can make to ecological networks in response to Natural England’s feedback.
- Additional wording added to the section on ‘byeways, tracks and rights of way’ confirming that the protection of the public rights of way network is a material consideration in assessing applications that could impact on the network.
- Cross-reference added to the adopted Local Plan policy on tranquillity (SP15) in response to feedback from local residents.
- Revisions made to the format and overall ordering of the document to improve its readability and flow.
- Additional wording included referencing the need to avoid encroachments onto Open Forest grazing land and the protection of back up grazing land in response to feedback from the Commoners’ Defence Association.

#### **4. Adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document**

- 4.1 The formal adoption of the Hyde Village Design Statement as a supplementary planning document is a decision for the full National Park Authority. As set in section 3 of this report and the accompanying Consultation Statement (Annex 2), although the level of responses to the draft Village Design Statement was relatively low, the comments received have helped to improve the document now presented for adoption.
- 4.2 The document at Annex 1 has been updated in response to the consultation responses received and follows liaison between National Park Authority officers and Hyde parish councillors who are content with the revisions. Members are therefore asked to formally adopt the revised Hyde Village Design Statement (Annex 1) as a supplementary planning document and bring it into immediate effect as a material consideration in the delivery of our statutory planning function in the parish of Hyde.
- 4.3 Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out the legal requirements that must be fulfilled on the adoption of a supplementary planning document. These include making copies of the document and ‘Adoption Statement’ available as soon as reasonably practicable; and sending a copy of the Adoption Statement to any person who has asked to be notified. Planning policy officers will ensure that these legal requirements are met.

**Recommendations:**

**Members:**

- (i) formally adopted the revised Hyde Village Design Statement (Annex 1) and bring it into immediate effect from 14 July 2022 as material consideration in planning decision-making; and
- (ii) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Strategy & Planning) to make any final, minor amendments to the design and formatting of the SPD prior to publication.

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**Papers:** **AM 627/22** – cover paper  
**Annex 1** – Revised Hyde Village Design Statement SPD for adoption  
**Annex 2** – Consultation Statement

**Equality Impact Assessment:** No impacts have been identified.