



Consulting with communities

Statement of Community Involvement (Updated)

New Forest National Park Authority, 2023

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Aim

The local community and a wide range of interest groups will be fully involved and engaged in the Authority's work so that everyone has the chance to help shape the future of the New Forest National Park. This document has been prepared to guide the Authority's more formal work, including preparing planning policy documents and other plans and strategies. We will help the community and other interests to be aware of planning applications, to understand what is proposed, to express their views on the proposal, and to be informed of the Authority's decision. We are committed to engaging people using a wide range of methods and will report in a transparent manner how comments have been taken into account.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The New Forest National Park is home to 35,000 residents and visited by millions of people a year. Working with our local communities and interest groups is core to the work of the National Park Authority. This document sets out how we will involve local communities and others in our work, including developing planning policy documents, determining planning applications and preparing other documents and strategies. We will use a range of methods to engage people depending on the nature of the documents and the topics covered.
- 1.2** As a local planning authority we are required to set out in our Statement of Community Involvement how we will engage with residents, businesses and other local organisations on planning and other matters in the National Park. We want to encourage people and organisations to get involved in our work and have therefore extended these principles to cover not only our statutory planning work, but also the development of other plans and strategies.
- 1.3** The aim is to provide clarity over how people will be engaged in our work. Involvement in consultations will be open to all who live in, work in and visit the New Forest National Park. We want to embrace and value the diversity of thoughts and perspectives that people from a range of backgrounds, experiences and identities bring to the National Park.

2 Why we need a Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.1** Preparing a Statement of Community Involvement is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Localism Act 2011 re-emphasises the importance of enabling communities to contribute towards shaping the places where they live. At the heart of the planning system is the aim of encouraging local people to engage in both plan-making and decisions on planning applications. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) also provides guidance on how planning consultations should be arranged and who should be consulted.
- 2.2** The Authority adopted its first Statement of Community Involvement in 2007 following public consultation and independent examination by the Government's Planning Inspectorate. That was revised and a new version was adopted in 2013. Since then there have been changes within the planning system and ~~we are taking this opportunity to update the document~~the document has subsequently been reviewed and updated in 2023.

3 How to use this document

3.1 This document sets out how we will involve people when:

- (i) preparing local planning policy documents (Sections 6 to 9)
- (ii) determining planning applications (Section 10)
- (iii) developing other strategies and plans (Section 11).

3.2 **Appendix 1** identifies broad categories of stakeholders, as set out in the relevant planning regulations, who are likely to be engaged during plan preparation stages. This is intended to give an indication only as the full list of consultees is held on a database by the Authority and is regularly updated.

3.3 **Appendix 2** sets out where you will be able to find out more information about the Authority's consultations.

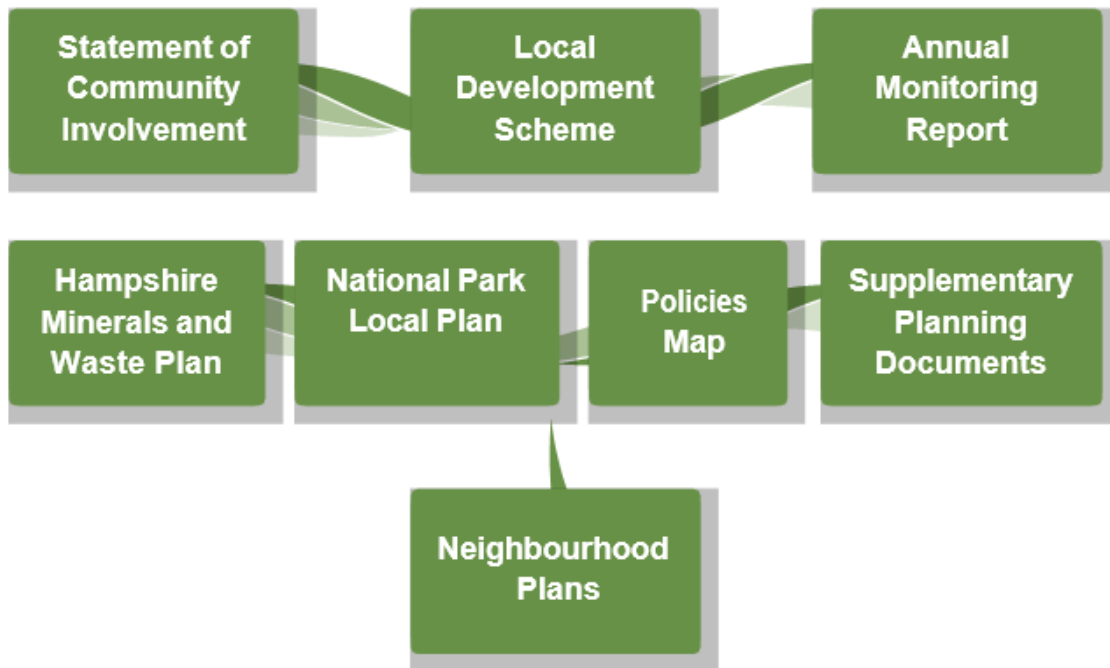
3.4 **Appendix 3** is a Glossary of terms used in this document, and where terms appear in the Glossary they are highlighted in **bold**.

4 Consultation on the draft document

4.1 Consultation on ~~this the~~ draft ~~document~~ Statement of Community Involvement ~~will take~~ took place for seven weeks between Monday 17 April 2023 and Monday 5 June 2023. All consultation comments received ~~will be~~ were considered ~~before and~~ before an updated version of the document ~~will be prepared and~~ was presented to the full National Park Authority meeting on 13 July 2023 for formal adoption. The updated document ~~will be~~ was accompanied by a 'Statement of Consultation' setting out a summary of the main points raised during the consultation and how they were taken into account.

5 What are the Planning Policy Documents for the National Park?

- 5.1 We are committed to engaging local communities in our local plan making. The diagram below sets out the planning policy documents prepared by the Authority (the Glossary provides a further explanation of the terms used).



- 5.2 The Authority's **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** sets out the timetable for preparing planning policy documents. The latest version of this can be found at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/policies-in-detail/.

6 Who we will consult on planning policy documents

- 6.1** Appendix 1 shows the types of people and bodies that will be involved in the plan making process. We keep an updated planning policy consultation list, which includes all the authorities, agencies, organisations, bodies and individuals that we will consult. Groups and organisations can be added to the list at any time by contacting policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

Sign up to our regular e-newsletter for updates on our work and to have your say at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk.

7 When and how we will consult on the Local Plan

Plan Preparation (Regulation 18 of the Government's Planning Regulations)

- 7.1** The Government confirms that local communities and other groups should be involved in the plan preparation process at an early stage. This initial phase will vary according to the nature of the document and may involve establishing the policy issues to be addressed, and collecting evidence or information. It will also allow discussion of potential options to address each issue.
- 7.2** At this stage it is important to seek a wide spectrum of opinion and to engage with people and groups with expertise on particular issues. Under the 'duty to co-operate' we will also engage with neighbouring authorities around the National Park to develop strategic policies on issues such as housing, recreation, minerals and infrastructure. We will also seek to engage in a variety of different ways with under-represented groups and interests.
- 7.3** After considering the initial comments and evidence base the Authority is likely to consult on a draft document, although this is not a statutory requirement. This informal consultation will last at least six weeks and will explain the issues to be considered and may also include a selection of preferred options, and a summary of the alternatives that were considered.
- 7.4** All comments received during this stage will be acknowledged and respondents will be notified of the next stage of the plan-making process. A publicly available 'Statement of Consultation' will be prepared setting out who was involved in the plan-preparation stage, a summary of their comments, and how their comments were taken on board.

SCI – 1 Preparing the Local Plan

We will use a series of methods to raise awareness of the Local Plan and generate debate about the issues which may include:

- **Notifying relevant specific consultation bodies, general consultation bodies, residents and local businesses that the Local Plan is being prepared**
- **Updates at the regular National Park Parish Quadrant meetings and the New Forest Consultative Panel where appropriate**
- **Updates in the Authority's e-newsletter (sign up required)**
- **The issuing of a press release and general publicity including social media**
- **An article in 'Park life' newsletter (where timings permit)**
- **Publishing a non-statutory draft Plan for a six-week period of consultation. This will be available for inspection at the Authority's office and at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk**

Publishing the ‘Proposed Submission’ document (Regulation 19)

- 7.5** Having considered all of the comments received during the plan-preparation stage, we will then prepare and publish the ‘Proposed Submission’ draft document (or equivalent under any revision to the relevant **Regulations**). This document will be subject to further public consultation for a period of six weeks.
- 7.6** At this stage comments will be invited from respondees to the ‘soundness’ of the plan and whether the plan is legally compliant. It will be for the Government’s Planning Inspectorate to consider these comments and whether the draft plan should be amended accordingly.

SCI – 2 Publishing the Local Plan

The Authority will consult on the ‘Submission Draft’ Local Plan for six weeks using the following methods:

- **Circulate the document to specific consultation statutory bodies, appropriate general consultation bodies, residents and local businesses**
- **Notify all of those who have asked to be consulted or kept informed of plan preparation progress**
- **Publish the document on the Authority’s website**
- **Make documents available at the Authority’s office in Lymington (see Appendix 2)**
- **Publish formal press notices. The Authority will also issue a press release and generally publicise the publication via social media channels**
- **Updates at the regular National Park Parish Quadrant meetings and the New Forest Consultative Panel where appropriate**
- **Updates in the Authority’s monthly e-newsletter**
- **An article in the ‘Park life’ newsletter (where timings permit)**

Plan Submission (Regulation 22)

- 7.7** The Plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State with supporting documents (sustainability appraisal and other accompanying evidence documents), including a ‘Statement of Consultation’ which will set out all of the representations received at the final consultation stage.
- 7.8** We will inform interested parties and anyone who has asked to be notified that the plan has been submitted and that the documents are available to be viewed.

Independent Examination (Regulation 24)

- 7.9** An independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will consider representations on the submission document and its 'soundness'. Anybody with an outstanding representation on the Plan will be notified of the Examination. The date, time and place of the Examination hearings will be advertised in the local press and on the Authority's website. After the Examination, the Inspector will produce a report with recommendations. Everyone who has requested to be notified will be informed that the Inspector's Report is available and the report will be published on the Authority's website and can be viewed at our offices.

Adoption of a Plan (Regulation 26)

- 7.10** If the Authority accepts the recommendations of the Inspector and proceeds to adopt a plan it will, as soon as practicable, publish the plan and sustainability appraisal. An 'Adoption Statement' will also be published and be advertised in the press and on the website. The plan will be available on the website, to view at locations as before and for purchase at a reasonable charge. Consultees, and anybody else who responded at any stage throughout the process, will be notified of its adoption. There is a six-week period when a legal challenge can be made to the Court and can be made on a point of law only.

Monitoring and Review

- 7.11** The Authority publishes a **Monitoring Report** covering each financial year (1 April in one year to 31 March in the next) and assesses the effectiveness of the local planning policies.
- 7.12** This Statement of Community Involvement will also need to be reviewed at least every five years, but updates may also be triggered by a number of factors, such as a change to the national planning framework, amendments to the list of consultees or any other factual changes. Minor changes, such as to those consultees included in Appendix 1, or factual changes, such as updating government regulations or guidance, will not be subject to public consultation.

8 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 8.1** The National Park Authority has previously prepared Supplementary Planning Documents to provide guidance and more detailed planning advice. Supplementary Planning Documents are not subject to independent examination, but public consultation is carried out to inform the preparation of the document in accordance with the relevant Regulations. At the time of writing, the Government has not decided whether to continue to use SPDs and these could be replaced. We will follow the consultation processes set out in the relevant Regulations covering either SPDs or the documents that may replace them.

Preparation

- 8.2** At this stage information and evidence is gathered to help inform the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document. This may be done by NPA officers, or in the case of Village Design Statements by a parish council or local steering group. Ideas, views and information will be gathered from appropriate organisations, individuals and communities and the work undertaken at this stage will be proportionate to the scope of the Supplementary Planning Document being prepared.

Consultation

- 8.3** Before adopting a Supplementary Planning Document, we will consult on a draft document for six weeks. This will be accompanied by a statement setting out who was consulted in preparing the SPD, a summary of the main issues raised, and how those issues have been addressed in the SPD. Following the consultation, we will prepare a 'Consultation Statement' setting out who was consulted during the preparation of the document, a summary of the main issues raised, and how those issues have been addressed.

SCI – 3 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

Before adopting a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) we will:

- **Invite relevant statutory bodies, local groups, residents and local businesses to discuss the issues to be covered and provide information**
- **Publish a draft Supplementary Planning Document for a six-week public consultation. During this period we will:**
 - (i) **circulate the draft document to statutory bodies, interest groups and local residents as appropriate**
 - (ii) **notify those who have asked to be consulted or kept informed of the Supplementary Planning Document preparation process progress**
 - (iii) **publish the draft Supplementary Planning Document on our website**
 - (iv) **make documents available at the Authority's office in Lymington**
 - (v) **publish a formal press notice, issue a local press release and publicise the document via social media channels**
 - (vi) **provide updates at the regular National Park Parish Quadrant meetings**
 - (vii) **publicise the consultation via the Authority's e-newsletter.**

8.4 The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Authority's members and everyone who commented during the six-week consultation will be notified when the revised document is going to an Authority meeting for adoption. Once the Supplementary Planning Document has been adopted a formal notice will be placed on the website and in the press. The adopted document will also be placed on the website and anybody who responded at any stage of the process will be notified of its adoption.

9 Neighbourhood Planning

- 9.1** Local town and parish councils in the National Park were given powers to prepare their own planning policy documents – known as **Neighbourhood Plans** – through the Localism Act 2011. This enabling legislation provides the framework for local communities to prepare their own planning policy documents, but it remains discretionary whether local town and parish councils take up these powers.
- 9.2** There are three main elements to Neighbourhood Planning:
- **Neighbourhood Plans** – these allow communities to prepare a plan for development and land use in their area, on one or more issues.
 - **Neighbourhood Development Order** – this can grant planning permission for specific types of development in a specific neighbourhood area.
 - **Community Right to Build Order** – this is a form of Neighbourhood Development Order which can be used to grant planning permission for small scale development for community benefit on a specific site or sites in a neighbourhood area.
- 9.3** We will fulfil our statutory Neighbourhood Planning responsibilities as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017) and the relevant Regulations. In particular, section 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017) requires Local Planning Authorities to set out in their Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) the policies for giving advice or assistance on proposals for the making, or modification, of Neighbourhood Plans.
- 9.4** As Neighbourhood Plans are not prepared by the National Park Authority, this document does not prescribe what methods of community engagement they must follow. It will be for the qualifying bodies and communities to decide an appropriate level of community engagement in relation to the size and complexity of the Plan. The requirements for consultation are set out in the 2012 Town and Country Planning, England - The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), and refer to the need for the National Park Authority to: ‘publicise...on their website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring the area application to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the area to which the area application relates’. We have adopted a Neighbourhood Planning Protocol which explains how we will support local communities undertaking neighbourhood planning.
- 9.5** Unlike a Local Plan, a Neighbourhood Plan does not have an Examination in public held by a Planning Inspector with public Hearing Sessions. Rather, an independent examiner reaches a view by considering written representations. The independent examiner’s role is limited to testing whether or not a draft neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions, and other matters set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). Those wishing to make their views known to the independent examiner, or who wish to submit evidence for the examiner to consider, will do this by submitting written representations to the National Park Authority

during the statutory publicity period on the submitted draft Neighbourhood Plan, which must be at least six- weeks. Details of the process of consulting on, and examining, a Neighbourhood Plan can be found in National Planning practice guidance (NPPG) at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance

10 Planning Applications

10.1 The Authority is the local planning authority for the National Park and deals with around 1,600 applications a year. These include planning applications; applications for listed building consent; conservation area consent; advertisement consent; applications for works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders; applications for works to trees in conservation areas; applications for mineral extraction; and applications for waste disposal facilities. We also deal with notifications under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

10.2 As the local planning authority, we consult neighbours and undertake other forms of publicity required in respect of planning applications within the National Park. Minimum standards for publicising applications are set nationally and the Authority delivers a Development Management service that goes beyond these national standards. Local consultation arrangements for planning applications include:

- Planning officers provide a duty telephone service between 10am and 12 noon Tuesday to Thursday to provide general planning advice and information (including advising on the need for planning permission and offering pre-application advice) to the general public. The Authority encourages people wanting formal pre-application advice to write in. Applicants and other interested parties can also telephone or write to the office or email planning@newforestnpa.gov.uk
- All applications are recorded on the public register of applications, available for information at the National Park Authority offices
- A weekly list of new applications is posted on our website and sent to Town & Parish Councils within the Park
- Copies of the application can be viewed at our offices and electronically at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk (or provided as paper copies for a small charge)
- A green site notice will be displayed at the site
- Neighbours will be directly notified by letter. [We will directly notify properties with a contiguous boundary or opposite the site of a planning application. The planning case officer also has discretion to notify additional properties where appropriate](#)
- Certain cases (e.g. Conservation Area development, listed buildings), will be advertised in a local newspaper whilst there remains a legal requirement to do so.

Publicity

10.3 All planning applications received will be publicised by a green site notice and through the neighbour notification scheme. All applications are scanned and published on our website and site notices give the date by which comments should be made (21 days is the statutory minimum). Immediate neighbours will be notified of a proposed

development by letter and advised of their rights to comment. For larger applications, this notification process may be extended to include a wider area. We may also consider additional publicity depending on the scale of the application and will also notify adjoining authorities where applications are close to the boundary with an adjoining district/borough. The role of publicising the majority of planning applications falls to the local planning authority, although in certain cases related to the Permitted Development rights of statutory undertakers, the developer has the responsibility of carrying out the publicity.

SCI – 4 Publicity on planning applications

We will publicise planning applications in accordance with established national standards, which will include:

- **posting site notices**
- **posting a weekly list of new applications on our website**
- **sending neighbour notification letters to relevant properties making documents available to view at our office**

10.4 Comments on applications can be made in writing (or by email) and should quote the planning application number, the address of the property to which it relates, and your own address. The best way to comment on a planning application is via the Authority's online Planning Citizen Portal. Comments will be taken into account before any decision is made, and all comments received are available for public inspection online. In the event of an appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal of planning permission or the imposition of a condition, anyone who has commented on an application will be notified.

Public speaking at the Planning Committee

10.5 If an application is to be considered by the Authority's Planning Committee, those people who have made previous comments on the application will be notified at least five working days before the meeting. Applications are determined at Committee where certain criteria apply. These include applications referred by members; applications submitted under the Commoners Dwelling Scheme; applications referred by local district, borough or county councillors; applications where the town or parish council has expressed a view contrary to the planning officer (and would not accept a decision reached by officers under delegated powers); applications which are contrary to the Authority's approved policies which are recommended for approval; or where an Authority officer or member has a clear pecuniary interest.

10.6 The Planning Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month at Lymington Town Hall (details of the schedule of meetings are available on the Authority's website) and the agenda is published five working days before the meeting. The meetings are open to the press and public, recorded and broadcast online. Arrangements for public

speaking are available and although the time available must be limited, this provides a useful opportunity for people to address the Committee. People who wish to speak on individual items must register their interest at least two working days before the date of the meeting. The opportunity to speak is provided for the applicant, supporters or objectors to the application (who have up to three minutes) and Parish and Town Councils (who, as representatives of the local community, are not time limited). All speakers have the 'right of reply' during discussions on planning applications considered by the Planning Committee.

SCI – 5 Speaking at Planning Committee

In cases where applications are to be considered by the Authority's Planning Committee, opportunity will be provided to address the Committee for those who have registered their interest at least two working days before the date of the meeting.

10.7 More information on the planning application processes can be viewed at:
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/the-application-process/

Planning Enforcement

10.8 We rely upon the help of the public to bring suspected breaches of planning control to our attention. All such reports are treated in confidence. The Authority has an adopted **Local Enforcement Plan** (2013) which gives advice on how town and parish councils and members of the public can report breaches of planning control. The Plan sets out how we keep people informed about an investigation as it progresses. A summary of all current enforcement cases, describing the nature of the alleged breach and the relevant stage of the investigation, is sent each month to all town and parish councils.

Planning Aid Advice Line

10.9 We recognise that some people prefer to seek independent planning advice. Planning Aid England is run by the Royal Town Planning Institute and provides a range of services and support to empower individuals and communities to engage in the planning process. This includes a free web resource for planning advice and a free email advice service.

Website www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid

Email info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Telephone: [0370 774 9494](tel:03707749494)

11 The Authority's other work

- 11.1** Although this Statement of Community Involvement focuses on our statutory planning function, we believe this document provides a useful framework for engaging with others on our wider work. Although this work may be less tied to specific legal requirements and regulations, it is equally important in taking forward the two National Park purposes and related duty. This section therefore sets out how local communities and other interested parties will be involved in our wider work.
- 11.2** Our non-planning work is wide ranging and includes the preparation of the National Park Management Plan and other work relating to its purposes (such as Conservation Area Management Plans, Landscape Action Plans, and our work relating to the climate and nature emergencies). The Authority seeks to engage people in a number of ways. In due course we will be preparing a fuller strategy for engagement with a broad range of people and communities on our wider work. In the interim, the broad framework below sets out how we will work with local communities and others in this work.
- 11.3** We will use a range of consultation methods to raise awareness of our wider work and encourage local communities and interested groups to share their views. This may include using the New Forest Consultative Panel to engage local groups and bodies in the New Forest in its work. The Consultative Panel was established in the 1970s and is currently made up of over 80 voluntary and statutory organisations in the New Forest, including representatives of local communities, recreational and environmental groups, land managers and local authorities.

The National Park purposes are:

- **To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area**
- **To promote the opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.**

The Authority also has a duty in pursuing the two purposes to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

- 11.4** We will also wherever possible make use of the 'Park life' newspaper which is currently distributed twice a year within the Lymington Times weekly newspaper and also available at community outlets throughout the Forest. The Authority can also provide more frequent updates via social media including channels such as Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn and people can sign up for regular email newsletters.

Appendix 1

Consultees for planning policy documents

Listed below are the consultees set out in the planning regulations, who will be consulted as appropriate, in the course of preparing planning policy documents. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, and includes successor bodies where relevant.

Specific Consultees

- Adjoining Local Planning Authorities (New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Wiltshire Council)
- Other relevant and adjoining County Council / Unitary Authority (Hampshire County Council, Dorset Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council, Southampton City Council, Isle of Wight Council)
- Town and Parish Councils in and adjoining the National Park
- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Highways England
- Relevant telecommunications companies
- Primary Care Trust
- The National Health Service
- Relevant electricity and gas providers
- Relevant water and sewerage undertakers
- Homes England
- A neighbourhood forum any part of whose area is in, or adjoins, the area
- The Coal Authority

General Consultees

- voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area,
- bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the authority's area,
- bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the authority's area,
- bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the authority's area,
- bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the authority's area;
- bodies which represent the interests of young people in the authority's area;
- bodies which represent the interests of LGBTQ+ in the authority's area;

Appendix 2

Where you will be able to see planning documents

Copies of planning policy documents and Notices will be available to view on the Authority's website **www.newforestnpa.gov.uk** and at the Authority's office (details below). Details of more recent planning applications can also be viewed electronically at our office:

**New Forest National Park Authority,
Lymington Town Hall,
Avenue Road,
Lymington,
SO41 9ZG**

Telephone 01590 646600

Appendix 3

Glossary

Local Plan Policies: Sets out the long-term spatial vision for the National Park Authority area, and the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. Also contains a suite of criteria-based policies which are required to ensure that all development within the National Park meets the spatial vision and spatial objectives set out in the Local Plan. The Local Plan is a Development Plan Document (DPD).

Development Plan: All proposals for development in the New Forest National Park must comply with policies in the Development Plan. This is currently made up of the Authority's Local Plan (August 2019), the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (adopted September 2013), and any 'made' Neighbourhood Plans covering the National Park (see the Authority's website for the latest list).

Formal Statutory Notices: These generally fulfil minimum statutory requirements of the planning process and are submitted to local newspapers, and in some cases to national publications such as The London Gazette. The notices provide information on matters such as deposit of planning documents, or proposals for development and set out arrangements for how and when to comment.

Local Development Framework: The Local Development Framework (LDF) contains the development plan documents, policies and programmes which guide the development and use of land in the National Park and informs decisions on planning applications and appeals. Some parts of the LDF have development plan status and form the development plan for the area (see 'Development Plan').

Local Development Scheme (LDS): Sets out the programme for preparing the Development Plan Documents.

Local Enforcement Plan: The National Park Authority adopted its Local Enforcement Plan in June 2013. The Plan has been produced to provide information on how the Authority's dedicated Enforcement Team will manage enforcement proactively in a way that is appropriate to New Forest National Park. The Plan therefore sets out how we will monitor the implementation of planning permissions, investigate alleged cases of unauthorised development and take action where it is appropriate to do so.

Monitoring Report: This assesses the effectiveness of the planning policies in the adopted Local Plan. Produced in December each year.

National Park Management Plan: Guides the management of the National Park in a way which will help to achieve its statutory purposes and duty, conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and wildlife, providing opportunities to foster understanding and enjoyment of the Park, and improving the quality of life for those who live or work in the National Park. It is a Plan for the future of the National Park and is aimed at all those with responsibilities or influence over the area and can only be taken forward by partnership working. The New Forest National Park's Partnership Plan 2022-2027 was approved in July 2022.

Neighbourhood Plans: Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans enable local communities to plan for the future of their area. Once adopted following examination and a referendum, they form part of the statutory development Plan and enable local communities to choose where new development occurs for example. Please see the Authority's website for the latest list of 'made' Neighbourhood Plans covering the National Park.

Policies Map: The adopted Policies Map (August 2019) illustrates on a base map the spatial application of the policies contained in the Local Plan. It must be reviewed to reflect the up-to-date planning strategy for the area.

Publicity leaflets: Where specific new policies or proposals need to be explained or advertised, the Authority may produce information leaflets which provide more detail of a proposal.

The Regulations: The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Soundness: The 'soundness' of a submission Local Plan Document, and objections to it, must be considered by an independent inspector at Examination. 'Soundness' includes assessing whether it has been prepared in the right way using the right procedures, and if it broadly conforms with national planning guidance.

Statement of Community Involvement: A document which sets out how the Authority will involve and consult the public and other organisations when preparing the LDF.

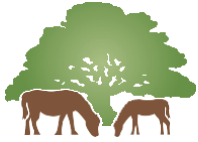
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): A formal environmental assessment of policies, plans and programmes, as required by the European 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC).

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD): Provide supplementary information in respect of the adopted local planning policies. They are not subject to independent examination.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): A tool for appraising policies to ensure that they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors) which must be undertaken for the Local Plan document and sometimes for SPDs.

Targeted consultation: This can take many forms, including sending early drafts of documents to specific organisations, or holding meetings with individuals or groups to discuss relevant issues.

Village Design Statements: A Village (or Parish) Design Statement (VDS) is a practical tool to help influence decisions on design and development. Prepared correctly, a VDS will provide a clear statement of the character of a particular village or parish against which planning applications may be assessed. It is not about whether development should take place (this is one of the purposes of the Authority's Local Plan), but about how development should be carried out to respect the local distinctiveness.



Contact us

New Forest National Park Authority
Policy & Conservation Team, Lymington Town Hall,
Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9ZG
Telephone: 01590 646600
enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

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