



New Forest National Park Authority
Revised Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation Statement

July 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement sets out the work involved in preparing the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and how the Authority has involved stakeholders and the public in its preparation. The statement covers the preparation of the revised SCI as well as the 7-week consultation undertaken between April – June 2023.
- 1.2 Although there is no longer a legal requirement to consult on revisions to an SCI, the Authority took the decision to engage consultees on the draft document. We have used the template for ‘consultation statements’ set out in Regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) 2012 regulations to provide details in this document of:
- a) the persons we consulted when preparing the revised draft SCI;
 - b) a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
 - c) how those issues have been addressed in the revised SCI being formally adopted.
- 1.3 The main part of this Consultation Statement summarises the key issues raised during the 7-week public consultation held on the draft SCI and how they have been addressed in the final version of the SCI.

2. Consultation during the preparation of the revised SCI

- 2.1 In March 2023 members of the National Park Authority approved a revised draft Statement of Community Involvement for the purposes of consultation. The previous SCI dated from 2013 and required updating to cover:
- Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework in 2018, 2019 and 2021. The NPPF includes chapters on ‘Plan-making’ and ‘Decision-making’ and is supported by the NPPG guidance on ‘Consultation and pre-decision matters’, ‘Determining a planning application’ and ‘Plan-making’ – all of which are relevant to the SCI update.
 - Various regulations published since 2013 to support the neighbourhood planning process. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 places various obligations on the Authority in supporting the production of Neighbourhood Plans.
 - Changes introduced to the plan-making process for both Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans in response to the coronavirus pandemic, several of which have been retained. Planning authorities are increasingly encouraged to use online engagement methods to their full potential, including virtual exhibitions, digital consultations, video conferencing, social media and providing documents for inspection on a public website.
- 2.2 The revised draft SCI was presented to the full Authority meeting in March 2023 for members’ consideration. It was endorsed for the purposes of consultation, which was undertaken in accordance with national guidance.

3. Consultation on the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement

3.1 Although there is no legal requirement to do so, the revised draft SCI was published for a 7-week period of consultation between 17 April and 5 June 2023. This period was chosen to allow time either side of the local elections in May 2023 for local town and parish councils to comment. This 7-week consultation included the following:

- Over 220 statutory and general consultees (Annex 1) were directly notified of the start of the consultation and provided a hyperlink to the draft SCI.
- The draft SCI 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 at the start of the consultation on 17 April, summarising the role of the draft SCI, the consultation period, how comments could be submitted and where the document could be viewed. The press release resulted in articles in several local newspapers.
- The consultation of the draft SCI was actively promoted through the Authority's social media channels, including Facebook (34,100 followers) and Twitter (15,400 followers).
- Updates on the SCI were given at the two parish quadrant meetings held during the consultation period and at the New Forest Consultative Panel.

3.2 During the consultation period on the revised draft SCI responses were received from 9 individuals and organisations, including:

- Town and Parish Councils within the National Park – Hordle, Melchet Park & Plaitford and Fawley.
- 'General consultees' – Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB.
- Local residents.

3.3 In accordance with Regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), this consultation statement sets out a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation period; and how those issues have been addressed in the final document. It should be noted that the Authority is not required to list every single point raised during the consultation, only the main issues raised.

4. Adoption of the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

4.1 The revised Statement of Community Involvement was considered at the full National Park Authority meeting on 13 July 2023. At this meeting members were presented with a summary of the consultation comments received during the 7-week public consultation held between April and June 2023. The covering report also set out various recommended amendments to the document following a review of the consultation comments received.

4.2 Following consideration of the consultation comments received and the proposed responses, members of the National Park Authority voted unanimously to approve the revised Statement of Community Involvement to guide our engagement with consultees in our statutory planning work. The revised SCI (July 2023) therefore replaces the previous New Forest National Park SCI (December 2013) in full.

Respondent	Summary of main points raised on the draft SCI	Authority response to the main points raised
Ringwood Society	Please could you add Ringwood Society to your list of planning policy consultees using the email address provided.	Agreed and changes made to the consultation database. The Ringwood Society is a 'general consultee' for planning purposes and the SCI itself does not list all of these in full.
Private individual	Paragraph 4.1: The NPA's planning work depends on the diligence of your officers and the adequacy of automation to convey the data gathered. This will almost always arrive in message form upon a system similar to the one you have used for this review. You will have almost no immediate way of assessing the impact or distress of any proposal save the number of responses and the ability of the persons responding to use the technology available to communicate said response. This excludes a very large proportion of the population and even this method of consultation is replicating this lack of diversity in gathering a broader response. This is not an adequate method of consultation but a "token" to suggest you have good intent; which is pointless unless it is effective and enabling.	There is no legal requirement for planning authorities to inform representors of decisions. However, the NPA provides a range of routes through which interested parties can keep up to date on the progress of an application, including: (i) a weekly list of decisions is available online; (ii) parish councils receive a parish list every week of applications in their areas; (iii) the NPA's online planning webpages allow people to track the progress of applications through the 'Citizens Portal'; and (iv) the contact details for the case officer for each application are listed, providing interested parties with the main point of contact. No changes recommended.
The Coal Authority	Statutory consultee – we have reviewed the document and have no specific comments to make.	Noted.
Private individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On your website there is a 'Latest Enforcement Briefing Report Jan-Mar 2019'. It is not referred to in paragraph 10.8. Has that reporting path ceased to exist? • Paragraph 8.1 states that "Government has not decided whether to continue to use SPDs and these could be replaced". Will this section/chapter be updated when this happens or will the text remain this same until the next formal consultation update? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Enforcement Briefing reports will begin again soon and will be published on the website. This does not need to be referenced in the SCI. No amendment needed. • As this would be a factual update it could be done as and when required without the need for future formal consultation. No amendment needed.
Private individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 10.2 and Annex 2: It is stated that copies of applications 'can be seen on NPA website'. However, not all residents have access to the internet, especially many elderly people. In terms of the statement that copies 'can be viewed at NPA offices', this would be a long and expensive journey for many. Regarding copies sent to parish councils, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend text to include reference to the potential availability of paper copies upon request, for a small fee in some cases.

	<p>most parish councils will not have printers that produce A3 copies, it is difficult to see drawings on smaller A4 prints and as they only have scale bars and no measurements in feet & inches or metres they are not helpful to anyone except professionals - they do not facilitate community involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 10.9: Independent planning advice seems to be only obtainable from a website or by email - no phone number or advice for those residents without access to IT so no community involvement for them. • Paragraph 10.2: The weekly list – this is sent to parish councils but they do not often have printers with A3 facility. A4 copies are too small to read and a scale bar is no use to ordinary residents - there should be measurements to aid community involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Aid is an external charitable organisation separate from the NPA. Amend text to add in a telephone number for the service. • The weekly parish lists are sent in table format and the tables can be enlarged when viewed online. The NPA will continue to look into improving the format of the weekly parish lists. No amendment recommended
Melchet Park and Plaitford Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 10.2: The term neighbour should be defined and not left to the discretion of the officer to decide who should or should not be informed of a planning application. In rural areas where properties are more dispersed it is nevertheless important that neighbours are informed. The Parish Council would like to see a formal definition of "neighbouring": it should not be left to the discretion of the officer. In rural areas where properties are dispersed the SCI should be quite clear whether or not the nearest property is to be consulted. 	<p>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 requires planning authorities to serve notice on "any adjoining owner or occupier" when an application is submitted. The NPA's approach is to directly notify properties with a contiguous boundary or opposite the site of a planning application. The case officer also has discretion to notify additional properties where appropriate. This meets the legal requirements and is the approach adopted by many other planning authorities. In addition, site notices are placed and weekly lists are sent to parish councils. The term 'neighbouring' therefore means 'adjoining' as per the relevant Regulations. It is recommended that additional wording is added to paragraph 10.2 of the SCI to clarify the legal requirements for neighbour notification.</p>
Hordle Parish Council	<p>Support - Hordle Parish Council appreciates being informed of NPA activities.</p>	<p>Support welcome – no amendments needed.</p>

<p>Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership</p>	<p>Appendix 1: Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a very close neighbour to the New Forest National Park and a fellow member of the English protected landscapes family of designated, nationally important, landscapes. There are, therefore, mutual spatial policy planning and development management interests. The AONB Board is therefore very disappointed not to find itself specifically listed in Appendix 1 as a consultee on planning policy documents. That seems a rather strange omission as the New Forest NPA has previously consulted this AONB on Local Plan, SPD, and National Park Management Plan matters. We trust that consultation will continue, and that we will appear in Appendix 1 of the finalised document.</p>	<p>Appendix 1 of the SCI lists the specific consultees as per the relevant regulations but does not list the general consultees as there are a lot of relevant local organisations which can change over time. The AONB would definitely be considered a general consultee to be consulted on relevant planning policy documents. However, it is not considered necessary to name the AONB individually in Appendix 1 as it will be too cumbersome to individually reference all relevant organisations and bodies. No amendment needed.</p>
<p>Fawley Parish Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 10.2: Clarification of the definition of 'neighbours' should be made for the purposes of notifying people of planning applications. • Appendix 1: The opening sentence states, "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." Who decides what is 'appropriate'? • General comment: The NPA's planning website requires improvement – not user friendly; consider key documents could be prioritised for easier access to information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 requires planning authorities to serve notice on "any adjoining owner or occupier" when an application is submitted. The NPA's approach is to directly notify properties with a contiguous boundary or opposite the site of an application. It is recommended that additional wording is added to paragraph 10.2 of the SCI to clarify the legal requirements for neighbour notification. • It will not always be appropriate to consult all of the organisations listed in Appendix 1 on draft planning policy documents (for example, the MMO would not have an interest in a draft Village Design Statement for an inland area). Similarly, there is some discretion for planning authorities in consulting 'general consultees'. It is there recommended that the wording is retained. • Point noted. The NPA's planning webpages continue to be revised as the new planning IT system beds in. The system offers greater functionality than the previous system, which was no longer supported/maintained.

Annex 1 – List of organisations notified of the revised draft SCI consultation

Coal Authority
Historic England
Natural England
Environment Agency
Marine Management Organisation
Highways England
National Grid
Bournemouth Water
Wessex Water
Southern Water
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care System

Dorset Council
Southampton City Council
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council
Wiltshire Council
Hampshire County Council
New Forest District Council
Test Valley Borough Council

Sir Desmond Swayne MP
Sir Julian Lewis MP
Sir Christopher Chope MP
Caroline Nokes MP
John Glen MP

Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council
Beaulieu Parish Council
Boldre Parish Council
Braemore Parish Council
Bramshaw Parish Council
Bransgore Parish Council
Brockenhurst Parish Council
Burley Parish Council
Copythorne Parish Council
Denny Lodge Parish Council
East Boldre Parish Council
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council
Exbury & Lepe Parish Council
Fawley Parish Council
Fordingbridge Parish Council
Godshill Parish Council
Hale Parish Council
Hordle Parish Council
Hyde Parish Council

Hythe & Dibden Parish Council
Landford Parish Council
Lymington & Pennington Town Council
Lyndhurst Parish Council

Marchwood Parish Council
Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council
Milford on Sea Parish Council
Minstead Parish Council
Netley Marsh Parish Council
New Milton Town Council
Redlynch Parish Council
Ringwood Town Council
Sopley Parish Council
Sway Parish Council
Totton & Eling Town Council
Wellow Parish Council
Whiteparish Parish Council
Woodgreen Parish Council

Action Hampshire
Age Concern Hampshire
Associated British Ports
Bournemouth International Airport Ltd
Calshot Activities Centre
Calshot Residents' Association
Campaign for National Parks
CPRE Hampshire
Christchurch Bicycle Club
Community First New Forest
Country Land and Business Association
Cranborne Chase & West Wilts Downs AONB
Enterprise M3 LEP
ExxonMobil Chemical Ltd
Federation of Small Businesses
Friends, Families and Travellers
Fordingbridge Society
Forestry Commission
Friends of Brockenhurst
Friends of the New Forest
Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Hampshire Association of Local Councils
Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society
Hampshire Constabulary
Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (New Forest Group)
Hampshire Gardens Trust
Hampshire Outdoor Centres
Hampshire Scouts
Homes England
Lepe Country Park
Lymington & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited
Lymington Harbour Commissioners
Lymington Society

National Farmers' Union
National Grid
National Trust
Network Rail
New Forest Access Forum
New Forest Association of Local Councils
New Forest Business Partnership
New Forest Centre
New Forest Commoners' Defence Association
New Forest Equestrian Association
New Forest Friends of the Earth
New Forest Hounds
New Forest Runners Club
New Forest Sports Council
Go New Forest
New Forest Transition
New Forest Trust
Ramblers Association (New Forest Branch)
Ringwood Society
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Sandy Balls Estate
Sandy Balls Holiday Village
The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain
Solent Forum
Solent LEP
Solent Protection Society
Southampton Airport
Sport England
SSE
Swindon & Wiltshire LEP
The Caravan Club Ltd
Tourism South East
Verderers of the New Forest
Wild New Forest
Wilts & Dorset Bus Co Ltd
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
UK Youth

New Forest Transition CIC
Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency (RACE)
Minstead Green Group
Greener Brockenhurst
ECO Sway
Conservation Connection New Forest South

Cadland Estate
Bisterne, Pylewell & Sowley Estates
Exbury Estate
Somerley Estate

Hamptworth Estate
Beaulieu Estate
Hinton Admiral Estate
Pylewell Estate
Meyrick Estate

Local Planning agents and architects x 80