

## Statement of Consultation

### Mears Ashby Village Design Statement

Regulation 12 (a) requires the preparation of a consultation statement before a local planning authority adopts a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The consultation statement must set out:

- The persons the local planning authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
- A summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
- How those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document

Regulation 12 (b) and 35 set out further statutory requirements in respect of the consultation process. They require that:

- There is a consultation period of at least 4 weeks;
- Documents are available for inspection at the Council's principal office and at such other places as the local planning authority consider appropriate; and
- Documents are published on the local planning authority's website.

Following approval by Development Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 public consultation was undertaken between Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016. This was for a period of over six weeks in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

[http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/downloads/file/6101/statement\\_of\\_community\\_involvement\\_2014](http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/downloads/file/6101/statement_of_community_involvement_2014)

In all approximately 930 consultation emails were sent through our online consultation software. The consultation database includes all parish councils, statutory consultees and local interest groups as well as local agents and builders. Copies of the documents were available at the Council offices in Wellingborough and consultation material was also available on the council website. Mears Ashby Parish Council also made local residents aware of the consultation.

There were in total 4 responses to the consultation, all of which were either no comments, general comments or supportive of the document. The responses came from:

- The Environment Agency
- Anglian Water
- Historic England
- Natural England

These representations were taken into account by the Development Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 when recommending adoption of the SPD. The adoption was approved at the Council meeting on 23 February 2017.

## Comments received on the Village Design Statement

Number	Rep No	Name	Organisation	Date Received	Comments	Objection/Support?	BCW Response
001	1	Sharon Nolan	Environment Agency	24/11/2016	We are encouraged to see the reference made to Swanspool Brook (section 3.3) in the Village Design Statement (VDS) and look forward to working with you on future documents to ensure that the water environment is protected and where possible enhanced.	Support	Noted
002	1	Stewart Patience	Anglian Water	21/12/2016	We note that the purpose is to identify the most important characteristics within the village and village area and provide planning guidance relating to these characteristics. Anglian Water has no comments relating to this document as the planning guidance falls outside our remit as a water company.	No comment	Noted
003	1	Clive Fletcher	Historic England	21/11/2016	We do not have any detailed comments to make on the plan at this time.	No comment	Noted
004	1	Jacqui Salt	Natural England	18/11/2016	<b>Landscape:</b> To preserve the wider landscape character of the area, Town or Village Design Statement should recognise and give appropriate consideration to the impact of the design statement on protected landscapes such as National Parks or AONB if the town or village is adjacent to one. Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) provide a context for looking at possible changes and for seeking to ensure that the countryside character is protected and enhanced. Local area LCAs and those for protected landscapes (where applicable), should be cross-referenced as they are a useful tool to ensure that the Village Design Statement makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape, and avoids any unacceptable impacts. Following the principles of LCA at a local scale helps to capture the significant features, style and patterns of settlement and setting within the landscape and key views in and around the village. National Park and AONB Management Plans can also provide useful information for design statements within or adjoining protected landscapes.	Non specific comments	Noted
004	2	Jacqui Salt	Natural England	18/11/2016	<b>Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Design:</b> Green infrastructure is a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. Green Infrastructure is relevant in a rural context, where it might additionally refer to the use of farmland, woodland, wetlands or other natural features to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification. Green infrastructure maintains critical ecological links between town and country. The Design Statement could usefully promote high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance provides an introduction to delivering green infrastructure at the micro and neighbourhood scale through features such as street trees, green facades and green roofs, where consistent with the local character. These features can be extremely important in increasing ecological connectivity between green spaces, particularly when footpaths and green corridors are not feasible.	Non specific comments	Noted
004	3	Jacqui Salt	Natural England	18/11/2016	<b>Biodiversity:</b> The design statement should have recognised and referenced designated wildlife sites and other biodiversity assets in the immediate area, such as protected species, ecological networks, habitats and green spaces. Design guidelines should respect, and where possible, enhance the town or village's local and neighbouring biodiversity resources. The Town and Country Planning Association has produced a practical and design orientated Biodiversity by Design guide to achieving high levels of biodiversity in developments, which may be of use. When preparing the Design Statement, your local Wildlife Trust and local environmental record centre should have been consulted, and local and national Biodiversity Action Plans should be referenced where relevant.	Non specific comments	Noted

## Comments received on the SEA

Number	Rep No	Name	Organisation	Date Received	Policy/Paragraph	Comments	Objection/Support	BCW
001	2	Sharon Nolan	Environment Agency	24/11/2016	All	We confirm that the VDS is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.	Support	Noted
003	1	Emilie Carr	Historic England	02/12/2016	All	No comment	No comment	Noted
004	1	Kayleigh Cheese	Natural England	16/12/2016	All	It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA is necessary.	Support	Noted