

## Sevenoaks District Council

### Otford Village Design Statement

#### Consultation Statement

#### Introduction

In accordance with the relevant Planning Regulations, before a Local Authority adopts a supplementary planning document;

*“It must prepare a statement setting out the persons the local planning authority consulted when preparing the SPD, a summary of the main issues raised by those persons, and how these issues have been addressed in the SPD...”*

This paper fulfils this requirement and sets out the public participation in the preparation of the document (Regulation 17 (1) (b)) and then the statutory public consultation undertaken on the draft Supplementary Planning Document (Regulation 18).

Once adopted, Otford Village Design Statement 2 SPD will form part of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. It will not form part of the formal development plan for the area but will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

#### Approach to consultation

Sevenoaks District Council considers that when preparing SPDs it is appropriate to inform, consult and seek the participation of organisations and/or individuals in order to ensure that the documents more closely reflect local needs and priorities.

The Council undertook an 8 week formal consultation on the Otford Village Design Statement 2 between 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015.

As part of this consultation, the Council:

- Published the draft Otford Village Design Statement 2 on the Sevenoaks District Council website and through the Council’s consultation system;
- Made the draft SPD available for inspection at the Council’s offices and libraries in the Council’s administrative area during normal office hours;
- Invited persons and organisations on the Council’s LDF mailing list and those registered on the Council’s consultation database, to make representations during the consultation period.

## Public Participation in the Preparation of the VDS by the Parish Council

Following on from the first Village Design Statement, the following has taken place in preparing the Otford Village Design Statement 2;

- Twelve members of the Design Team worked for over a year to collate the wide range of information and comments used in the preparation of this report and converted it into the final text;
- The whole community of Otford expressed their views, participated in work shops and meetings and commented on aspects of the VDS during its preparation;
- The Design Team offered the benefit of their insights, experience and specialist knowledge and thus enabled the accuracy, validity and potential for impact of the document to be enhanced.
- Authorities and associations including the SDC, Kent Downs AONB and Action with Communities in Rural Kent gave advice and support to this project.

The proposals contained within the up-dated (VDS 2) version were studied and approved by the members of the Parish Council in November 2012. A full public display of its contents then took place over two days during February 2013 in the Village Memorial Hall. This event was well attended following announcements being made at the Otford Society meetings and Parish Council meetings. Residents were provided with post-it notes and pens to add their views on any factors they wished amended or deleted. These were all taken into account in the submitted version.

## Sustainability Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal for the Village Design Statement has not been undertaken as Sec.180 (5)(d) Planning Act 2008 removed the compulsory requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal for a Supplementary Planning Document.

## Comments

Comments were received from:

Natural England (Carla Jackson)  
Environmental Agency (Jennifer Wilson)  
Highways Agency (Barbara Barnes)  
Natural England (Catherine Tonge)  
One interested party

One of the responses raised an issue and the others made points designed to strengthen some of the document or suggested amendments to clarify the text.

## Summary of Issues Raised and Responses

See table following.