

Sevenoaks District Council

Otford Parish Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Consultation Statement

Introduction

In accordance with the relevant Planning Regulations, the Authority is required to prepare a statement providing details of the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document; a summary of the main issues raised; and how they have been addressed in the final version of the document. This paper fulfils this requirement and sets out the public participation in the preparation of the document Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended (Regulation 17 (1) (b))) and then the statutory public consultation undertaken on the draft Supplementary Planning Document (Regulation 18).

Once adopted, the Parish Plan will form part of the Sevenoaks District Local Development Framework. 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 a 6 week formal consultation on the Otford Parish Plan from 28th Jun 2012 and 9th Aug 2012.

As part of this consultation, the Council:

- Published the Parish Plan on the SDC 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 Parish Plan

"The Otford Parish Plan is the result of extensive consultation, including a questionnaire returned by almost half of households. It draws heavily on the questionnaire results, in terms of both statistics and written comments. The process we went through to involve local people and create the Plan is set out in more detail in the Appendices. It is consistent with the Local development Framework Core Strategy

The whole process and the creation of the Plan documents have been undertaken by groups of local people drawn from all parts of the Parish. The Parish Council has been involved throughout and has given its support to the Plan”.

Sustainability Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal for the Parish Plan was 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

Environmental Agency (Jennifer Wilson)

Should identify the River Darent as an "area of value for biodiversity", Section 6.

Kent County Council (Paul Crick)

Should fully consider how Otford fits into the local landscape and acknowledge the role that the landscape has played, and still plays, in the village (although it is possible that this is more fully considered in the Village Design Statement).

There are also numerous buildings of local interest these should be identified

Kent Wildlife Trust (Miss Debbie Salmon)

Safeguards should be included within the plan to protect the important natural habitats and species and enhance their nature conservation importance

Natural England (John Lister)

Future reviews could consider how the community could support biodiversity through local action to protect and enhance habitats in and around the settlement, including gardens, allotments, churchyards, playing fields and other open spaces

Sevenoaks Cycle Forum (Reg Oakley)

Supports the acknowledgement of the absence of any designated safe cycle routes through the village. Suggests the implementation of 20MPH limits

These responses are in support of the documents while making points designed to strengthen some of the document or suggested amendments to clarify the text.

Response

Otford parish Council have noted the comments and the relevant ones will be incorporated in the next version. It should be noted that the majority of the comments are addressed in the village design statement which is currently being updated.

Sevenoaks District Council considers that the Parish Council can appropriately address these comments through minor amendments to the plan and through the updating of the VDS.