

Revised Statement of Community Involvement

Summary of Consultation Responses

October 2020

Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the consultation that was carried out on the revised 2020 Statement of Community Involvement, the representations received and the Council's response to those representations.
- 1.2 The revised SCI was published as a Consultation Draft for a 4-week consultation period from 3rd to 31st August 2020. The current adopted SCI was revised to take account of changes to planning legislation, policy and guidance that need to be reflected in the SCI. The SCI also needed to be revised in order to respond to the COVID-19 restrictions that have been imposed by the Government so that plan making can continue during the emergency and to ensure that effective community involvement takes place during this time.
- 1.3 Despite there being no requirement to carry out consultation on the SCI in the Regulations, this consultation involved contacting approximately 950 organisations and bodies on the Council's consultation database which were considered relevant to the document (see Appendix 1 for a copy of the email/letter).
- 1.4 The draft document was made available on the Council's website. Although respondents were encouraged to submit responses via email it was also possible to respond via post or via the dedicated planning policy telephone line. The consultation was also promoted using the department's Twitter account.

Representations received and responses made

- 2.1 A total of 10 representations were received to the SCI Consultation Draft. Table 1 below provides a summary of the comments received along with the Council's response.
- 2.2 All comments received on the Consultation Draft of the SCI have been considered, however none of the comments received resulted in a specific change to the document.

Table 1: Summary of comments and Council response

| Name | Organisation | Summary of Comments | Council Response |
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| Pamela Taylor | Hollins Village Community Association | One of the matters of particular concern is how the council plan to take forward consultation and involvement at neighbourhood level, given the dissolution of the township forums in the Borough. These meetings used to provide the ideal platform to provide information and for in depth discussion by stakeholders at a very local community level. Whilst there is much talk in your document about methods of communicating information, much of it is based around reliance on technology via websites etc. I would like to know how the council plan to provide for more in depth engagement with communities that should actually be helping to shape plans going forward. | Comments noted, no change required. The SCI accords with Government regulations, policy and guidance and offers sufficient flexibility to tailor consultation activities and methods in order to provide more in-depth engagement with local communities as appropriate and as resources allow. |
| Christopher Kibble | Whitefield Golf Club | Whilst the Government has asked the council to update the plan to reflect necessary changes to processes due to COVID-19, I wonder whether | Comments noted, no change required. The changes made to the SCI document are as a result |

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| | | the amendments should be less specific. Perhaps refer to pandemics or other events that affect running of council activities and give COVID-19 as an example in the glossary. | of Government changes to the Planning Regulations as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| John Rigby | | <p>Thank you for your email and statement on the above matter.</p> <p>However, I fail to see the point in the consultation document. Quite recently there was an application for planning permission for a very tall telephone mast in our residential area.</p> <p>Objections to the application, based on valid reasons, were made in writing by 37 residents, and there were no responses in favour of the application. However, the planning application was approved by Bury Council without any reference to those residents who had objected, in fact the residents were not even advised that a decision had been made.</p> <p>In light of this, there would appear to be no point in such</p> | <p>Comments noted, no change required.</p> <p>All comments received in response to planning applications are fully considered in the determination of the application, however they form only one of a number of considerations which are taken into account in reaching a decision on the application.</p> |

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| | | a consultation document as it seems to be the policy of Bury Council not to have any regard for the views of local residents. | |
| Dawn Kinrade | Natural England | We regret we are unable to comment, in detail, on individual Statements of Community Involvement. | Comments noted, no change required. |
| Dr. Falmai Binns | | <p>I wish to register as a 'Consultee' to Bury Council for their draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), as the section below alerted in this document offers opportunity. The SCI sets out how BMBC will involve the community in preparing and revising all local planning documents and in making decisions on planning applications.</p> <p>I also wish to emphasise that my village Holcombe should be classed as section no. 3 of the code proposed viz. below detail. Since Holcombe is the highest grade Conservation Area in the Bury Borough with unique ARTICLE 4 PROTECTION, I</p> | <p>Comments noted, no change required.</p> <p>Respondent is included on the Council's consultation database as a 'general consultee' and will be notified of consultations on planning policy documents as necessary.</p> <p>It is assumed that the request for classification of Holcombe under the "protected category" is made with reference to the Government's current consultation on its White Paper "Planning for the Future". Consultation on the White Paper is a Government consultation and is outside of the scope of this consultation on the councils SCI.</p> |

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| | | believe this is a reasonable request. | |
| Emily Hrycan | Historic England | Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above document. At this stage we have no comments to make on its content. | Comments noted, no change required. |
| Nicola Elsworth | Homes England | Homes England does not wish to make any representations on the revised Statement of Community Involvement. We will however continue to engage with you as appropriate. | Comments noted, no change required. |
| Debra Batchelor | | Please accept this as my request to be registered as a Consultee on Bury Councils SCI and any other relevant planning applications. I am a resident in Holcombe and supporter of the Riding for Disabled Charity in Holcombe and member of Bury MBCs Local Access Forum. | Comments noted, no change required. Respondent has been added to the Council's consultation database as an 'other consultee' and will be notified of consultations on planning policy documents as necessary. It should be noted that the Council's consultation database is only applicable to planning policy documents |

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| | | | and not for consultation on planning applications which are considered on a case by case basis. |
| John Batchelor | | As a resident of Holcombe Village, please accept this as my request to register as a Consultee on Bury Council's SCI and any other relevant planning documents. | <p>Comments noted, no change required.</p> <p>Respondent has been added the Council's consultation database as an 'other consultee' and will be notified of consultations on planning policy documents as necessary.</p> |
| Tim Bettany-Simmons | Canal & River Trust | Thank you for you consultation on the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement. Having reviewed the amendments the Canal & River Trust have no comment to make. | Comments noted, no change required. |

Appendix 1: Copy of email/letter sent to consultees

Consultation on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement 2020

Bury Council has prepared a revised draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how we will involve the community in preparing and revising all local planning documents and in making decisions on planning applications.

Our current SCI was adopted in 2015. Local Planning Authorities are required to carry out a review of their SCIs every five years from the adoption date and, since the last revision in 2015, there have been a number of changes to planning legislation, policy and guidance that need to be reflected in the SCI.

In addition, the Government has been clear that everyone should adhere to various measures to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). These measures have implications for planning-related consultation, including how the public are engaged in plan-making and the ability of local authorities to comply with arrangements set out in their existing SCIs – particularly those forms of engagement that involve public gatherings and/or face-to-face contact whilst social distancing measures are in place.

As such, the SCI also needs to be revised to respond to the COVID-19 restrictions so that plan making can continue during the emergency and to ensure that effective community involvement takes place during this time. However, it is anticipated that the consultation arrangements set out in the draft revised SCI to reflect COVID-19 restrictions will be temporary and that the document will be further revised to remove these once restrictions are lifted.

In preparing the draft revised SCI, the Council has also taken the opportunity to improve the structure of the document and to add greater clarity where necessary.

The draft SCI is available for public consultation from **Monday 3rd August 2020 to Monday 31st August 2020 at 5:00pm.**

You can view the document on the Council's website via the following link:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10738>

Full details of how to make comments are on our website. If you require any further information or you need help accessing the document please leave a message for the Strategic Planning team by telephoning 0161 253 5550 or by emailing planning.policy@bury.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Strategic Planning and Economic Development – Development Plans Unit