

Consultation Statement

for the Isle of Wight Council

Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan Supplementary Planning Document

1. This statement sets out who was consulted on during the preparation of the Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan Supplementary Planning Document (N&WPPSPD), a summary of the responses raised and how those issues have been addressed in the final SPD. Preparation of this statement is a requirement of Regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
2. Consultation commenced on the draft N&WPPSPD on 14th March 2014¹ and closed at midday 28th April 2014. The draft SPD, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) draft screening statement were made available on the council's website.
3. Copies of the documents were available online (on both the homepage of iwight.com and on the planning policy pages), at Seaclose Offices Reception and County Hall Reception and at Edward Edwards Community Library, High Street, Niton. A notice advertising the consultation and how to respond was placed in the local newspaper. Due the localised nature of the document notices were also placed on Niton & Whitwell Parish Council noticeboards. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix 2.
4. Extensive consultation had already been undertaken by the parish council, prior to the council's formal consultation. An outline of the consultation work that the parish council undertook can be found in Appendix 3.
5. No representations were received during the formal consultation period. Therefore no changes were made to the N&WPPSPD as a result of representations received.
6. A number of minor changes have been made to the document following discussions between the council and the parish council. These cover editorial changes (such as typo's and factual updates), and changes required for the document to comply with the Regulations. These changes are set out in Appendix 1

¹ <http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning-Policy-new/Supplementary-Planning-Documents/Niton-and-Whitwell-Parish-Plan-Consultation>

Appendix 1

The following table sets out the wording changes that have been made, following discussions between the council and the parish council. The changes are listed in the order they appear in the document. Additions are shown with an underline and deletions are shown with a ~~strike through~~.

Detailed wording change		Reason
Front Cover	<u>Adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document June 2014</u>	To comply with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
2	A full analysis of the 2012 questionnaire results will appear with the Parish Plan on the Parish Council website.	To reflect changes since the 2013 Parish Plan was published
4	...hand delivery to every household (c 1,100) in November, 2011 January, 2012.	To correct a factual error
6	<u>and the Isle of Wight Council Natural England has designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the Isle of Wight Council has designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.</u>	To correct a factual error
13	...occasional in-filling within the Whitwell's previous development envelopes of both villages and Niton's RSC settlement boundary.	To reflect the adoption of the Island Plan Core Strategy
14	<u>Potential development sites have undergone a strategic level viability assessment as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) process. Four of these sites have been identified outside the previous development envelope in Niton and five in Whitwell. (see maps at Appendix 5). The SHLAA is a technical exercise to inform the Island Plan. It does not allocate land for development, but examines the extent to which possible sites, including those suggested by developers, landowners and other parties are suitable, available and achievable over a given timeframe. It is not an identification of planning applications already made, or about which there has been preapplication discussion. The inclusion of sites within the SHLAA should not be taken to imply that the sites will be allocated for housing or looked upon favourably when</u>	To provide up-to-date information regarding the SHLAA and to ensure the information doesn't date too quickly.

Detailed wording change		Reason
15	<p>determining planning applications.</p> <p>...retain their independence was consistent with a rejection of the SHLAAs where ribbon development was involved. These SHLAA sites considered to be most unsuitable were, in Niton LDF059 and LDF040e, and in Whitwell LDF155, LDF299 and LDF396. Since the questionnaire was completed and this paragraph drafted the Isle of Wight Council has revised the category of several of these SHLAAs and added three more.</p>	To provide up-to-date information regarding the SHLAA and to ensure the information doesn't date too quickly.
28	Nature conservation designations	To correct a typographical error
29	The page has been amended to provide updated maps and lists of SHLAA sites for each village	To provide up-to-date information regarding the SHLAA.
30/31	The due by column has been replaced by a progress column, in which a progress update for each action is given	To provide up-to-date information regarding the actions of the Parish Plan.

Appendix 2

The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

At the request of the Niton & Whitwell Parish Council, the Isle of Wight Council is consulting on the content of the Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan, with a view to adopting it as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) within the Island Plan Local Development Framework.

The Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan sets out locally important issues and how they would like their community to be in the future.

The document has been prepared by the Parish Council and covers their administrative area. It is supported by a Sustainability Appraisal Screening Report and Island Plan Core Strategy Conformity Checklist.

The above documentation is available to view and download at:

www.iwight.com/spd

A copy of the draft SPD and accompanying documents are also available for public inspection at:

Edward Edwards Community Library, High Street, Niton
Monday 2pm to 5pm, Wednesday 9am to 12 midday and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Seaclose Offices Reception, Fairlee Road, Newport
Monday-Thursday 8.30am to 5pm (except last Wednesday of the month - 10am to 5pm)
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

The period for representation will run from Friday 14 March until midday on Monday 28 April 2014. Any representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified of the adoption of the SPD.

Representations should be sent to planning.policy@iow.gov.uk, or via post to Planning Policy, Isle of Wight Council, Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2QS

If you have any queries, please contact Planning Policy on Tel: (01983) 823552, Fax: (01983) 823851 or email: planning.policy@iow.gov.uk

Appendix 3

Niton and Whitwell Parish Council

NITON and WHITWELL PARISH PLAN 2013

Consultation Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The first Niton and Whitwell Parish Plan was published in March 2004.
- 1.2. In November 2009, Niton and Whitwell Parish Council first indicated its intention to carry out audits in both villages and to consider updating the Parish Plan.
- 1.3. Village audits were subsequently carried out in 2010: in Niton on 1st May and in Whitwell on 25th September. Both events were advertised on local notice boards, on the Parish Council website, in local shops, in 'Connections' Parish magazine, the 'Beacon' magazine and in the 'Village Talk' column of 'The County Press'. In addition to Parish Councillors being in attendance, forms were available for Parishioners' use to feedback their comments, concerns and suggestions. There were also flyers asking for volunteers to help with updating the Parish Plan: 'Do you care about the future of our community? The Parish Council wants to update the 2004 Parish Plan and is looking for local people to get involved.'
- 1.4. The Parish Council reviewed the comments, concerns and suggestions collected during the village audits and resolved to incorporate those which could not be followed up immediately into the revised Parish Plan.
- 1.5. The requirement for volunteers to form a Steering Group was widely advertised over several months.
- 1.6. In April 2011, the Parish Council resolved to ask Mr Peter Marsden, a local resident who had been a member of the 2004 Parish Plan steering group, to convene an initial meeting of volunteers with a view to forming a Parish Plan Review Steering Group.

2. Steering Group

2.1. In July 2011, the following Parish Council directive to the Parish Plan Review Steering Group was adopted:

The first Niton and Whitwell Parish Plan (PP) was produced by a steering group and approved by the Parish Council in March 2004. The Action Plan annexed to the PP was reviewed in February 2006 and again during a subsequent audit. It has never been adopted by the IW Council as a supplementary planning document (SPD), mainly because the Island wide planning documentation has been under review – from Unitary Development Plan to Island Plan Core Strategy and related documents – for the past decade.

Over the last few years there has been a move by government to strengthen the voice and involvement of people in the future of their local area: for those communities who have already adopted a Parish Plan now is a good time to look to refresh ours. The IW Council plans to consider PPs for adoption as SPDs during 2012.

In 2004 the PP Vision Statement read as follows:

‘To identify and promote the current and future needs of the community; to enable such needs to be met through dialogue, attraction of funds and development: whilst retaining the local distinctiveness, facilities and sense of community which currently make the villages so popular.’

We believe that requirement to be, broadly, the task of the group of local citizens (including two Parish Councillors) who have volunteered, as a Steering Group (SG), to review the 2004 PP and to propose alterations and additions in the light of changes in government and IW Council policies and in local needs. In undertaking this review the following guidelines should be observed:

- *Several villages have produced a Village Design Statement; we have not done so although a detailed and still relevant Landscape Character Assessment was included as Appendix 2 in the 2004 PP. In the light of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) of April 2011 it is important that local views on the suitability and effects of planned development should be clearly stated in local plans. The steering group should therefore consider whether a separate Village Design Statement - joint or one for each - should be prepared or whether expansions/updating of Sections 3 and 5 of the PP could meet this requirement. Guidance on this matter should be sought from the IW Planning Policy and Design Staff.*
- *Consultation is key to validity/credibility. The SG needs to identify ways of involving the whole community and gather the views and opinions of as many groups and organisations in the community as possible.*

- *AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SG A CHAIRMAN, A SECRETARY AND A TREASURER SHOULD BE ELECTED AND SOURCES OF AND NEEDS FOR FUNDING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.*
- *THE SG MAY CONSIDER APPOINTING MEMBERS TO WORKING GROUPS TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY CONSULTATION ON INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS/SECTIONS.*

2.2. The inaugural meeting of the Niton and Whitwell Parish Plan Review Steering Group took place on 5th September 2011.

2.3. Several working groups were established within the Steering Group:

facilities for children, transport, traffic and parking, housing and development, recreation and economy.

2.4. A summary of the meeting appeared in the 'Beacon' and 'Connections' magazines together with an invitation to inform the Parish Clerk of issues which were important so that these could be included in the questionnaire to be prepared by the Steering Group.

2.5. The Steering Group, in consultation with the Isle of Wight Council, prepared a questionnaire which was ratified by the Parish Council in January 2012. The questionnaire took into account the outstanding actions from the Action Plan which formed the Annex to the Parish Plan 2004.

3. Initial Community Engagement

3.1. The questionnaire was distributed to each household in the Parish of Niton and Whitwell (c. 1,100) in late January 2012. The introduction to the questionnaire outlined the level of community engagement being sought:

'In 2003/4 the Parish Council tasked a small steering group composed of local residents to undertake research by questioning a large number of local residents about their current and foreseen needs. A questionnaire was distributed to all households and several public meetings were held. This process was completed by the production and distribution of the Niton and Whitwell Parish Plan. Over the past seven years some, but not all, of the recommendations made in that plan have been implemented.

The Parish Council has recently decided that, not least because of recent changes in planning law which aim to enhance the authority and responsibilities for planning at neighbourhood level, it is timely to update the data collected in the Parish Plan process. A current steering group has designed this questionnaire so that, given a good 'take-up' ratio, the Parish Council will be better placed to influence and form future neighbourhood

planning.

One of the important elements of this process is to establish housing needs and it is intended during 2012 that an Island-wide housing needs survey be undertaken by the IW Council.

Please would you complete the questionnaire anonymously and indicate by a tick in the boxes below whether you live in Niton or Whitwell. Answers should reflect the views of the whole household at your address; however those wishing to express individual opinions may obtain further copies from the Niton Post Office. We will arrange for collection of completed questionnaires a fortnight after delivery.

Once analysis of the responses has been undertaken it is proposed to hold a series of open public meetings in both villages to discuss how established needs and aspirations may best be taken forward.'

3.2. During February and March 2012, a team of volunteers visited each household in the Parish to collect completed questionnaires; there were also well-advertised collecting boxes in Niton Post Office and Whitwell Garage. As a result, 480 completed questionnaires were returned, representing over 44% of households.

3.3. By means of populating specially designed spreadsheets, data from the questionnaires was analysed using 'Survey Monkey' software. The analysis was completed in August 2012. Although the 'Survey Monkey' software licence has long since expired, the spreadsheets containing the raw data from the questionnaires remain permanently available for Parish Council use to inform future policy and decision making.

3.4. As stated in the Parish Plan 2013,

'following this analysis, and in the light of advice from the Isle of Wight Council Planning Department, and from participants in similar groups in adjacent counties, a presentation was made to the Parish Council in October 2012. The recommendation was to refresh the 2004 Plan rather than create a Neighbourhood Plan, a far more complex and lengthy undertaking.'

Furthermore, in his report to the Parish Council presented in October 2012, the Chairman of the Steering Group stated:

'Having considered the Survey Monkey analysis Section by Section, Steering Group members are not persuaded that there are needs or aspirations expressed by residents in the questionnaire which can only be met by an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.'

His recommendation was thus

'to 'refresh' that [2004] Plan in the light of the Localism Act and the adoption as Isle of Wight Council Policy of the Core Strategy and associated planning documents using the data recently collected : this to be supplemented with, hopefully, consensus concerns and suggestions obtained at public meetings to be held in both villages.'

The Parish Council agreed and resolved to produce an updated Parish Plan rather than a Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Further Community Engagement

4.1. In December 2012 and January 2013, two public meetings in Niton and one in Whitwell were organised by the Chale, Niton and Whitwell Ward member of the Isle of Wight Council and were used to present, inter alia, the questionnaire analysis and the summaries written by members of the Steering Group and to encourage further discussion. The meetings were publicised in 'Connections' Parish magazine, the Isle of Wight 'County Press' 'Village Talk' column, on local notice boards and in local businesses and on the news page of the Parish Council website.

4.2. The meetings were well-attended and lively gatherings; Steering Group members incorporated the feedback from the meetings into the new Parish Plan.

5. Production of the Parish Plan 2013

5.1. The draft Parish Plan was produced by the Steering Group and presented for Parish Council consideration at its meeting in June 2013. The Parish Council formed a working group of Councillors to finalise the text and design. The Parish Council subsequently resolved to adopt the textual content, with provision for correction should any statement be non-factual, at its meeting in July 2013.

5.2. In August, the Parish Council adopted the full final version of the Parish Plan 2013.

5.3. In both cases above, adoption was by means of a formal resolution at a Parish Council meeting, subject to the prescribed method of advertisement (Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 10(2)(a) 'three day rule') and open to members of the press and public.

6. Accountability and Future Consultation

6.1. From all of the data collected, Steering Group and Parish Council members identified major community concerns and recommended improvements and, from these, compiled the Parish Action Plan which forms Appendix 6 to the Niton and Whitwell Parish Plan 2013.

6.2. To ensure that the requirements of the Action Plan are met and to establish accountability for doing so, the Parish Council has put in place appropriate measures including forming a Transport Committee in August 2013 and

changing its policy to welcome pre-application approaches from all planning applicants.

6.3. The Parish Council acknowledges the absence of a local Housing Needs Survey to compliment the Parish Plan; it has recently undertaken to conduct such a survey and is currently working in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council to this end.

7. Other Consultees

7.1. In the preparation of the Niton and Whitwell Parish Plan 2013, the following outside organisations and office holders have been consulted:

- Isle of Wight Council Planning Policy team;
- Isle of Wight Council Housing;
- Isle of Wight Council Highways Department;
- Isle of Wight Council Transport;
- The Business Intelligence Team;
- The County Ecologist;
- The National Trust;
- The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty office;
- The Isle of Wight Council Ward member for Chale, Niton and Whitwell, Councillor David Stewart;
- Office of National Statistics (Census information);
- Isle of Wight Council Archaeology and Historic Environment Service.

Consultation Statement prepared by

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Clerk to Niton and Whitwell Parish Council

23rd February 2014