

Statement of Consultation: Joint Adur & Worthing Statement of Community Involvement (April 2024)

The Councils undertook a period of public consultation on the draft revised Joint Statement of Community Involvement, which closed on 6th December 2023.

This report summarises the representations received and the Officers' responses.

The Councils received 5 representations. These included:

- Historic England (statutory consultee)
- Environment Agency (statutory consultee)
- National Highways (statutory consultee)
- Southern Water (statutory consultee)
- Goring and Ilex Conservation Group (general body)

The issues raised in these representations are presented below, along with Officers' responses to these comments.

Historic England

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We suggest that the following are reflected in the SCI:</p> <p>Planning and Development in the Historic Environment - A Charter for Historic England Advisory Services (July 2017). This sets out Historic England advisory services for planning and development. It details the circumstances where we must be consulted on planning applications. Also underlines the value of pre-application discussions on proposals that will result in major change or damage to nationally important heritage assets.</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal - Historic England is a statutory consultee for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) but we do not have the capacity to attend workshops and thus the Council's Conservation Officer should attend these. Historic England will respond to SEA / SA consultations.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans Historic England may need to be consulted. Historic England and the Environment Agency have jointly produced guidance on</p>	<p>Reference to this guidance has been added to paragraph 4.9 of the SCI.</p> <p><u>Historic England recommends that developers seek guidance from Planning and Development in the Historic Environment - A Charter for Historic England Advisory Services (July 2017), which sets out Historic England advisory services for planning and development. It details the circumstances where we must be consulted on planning applications. The guidance also underlines the value of pre-application discussions on proposals that will result in major change or damage to nationally important heritage assets.</u></p> <p>Noted. The Councils will continue to consult Historic England when undertaking public consultation on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

<p>the natural and historic environment in neighbourhood planning.</p> <p>National Amenity Societies</p> <p>Consider whether the following national amenity societies require being consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Buildings & Place (formerly Ancient Monuments Society) • Council for British Archaeology • The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings • The Georgian Group • The Victorian Society • The Twentieth Century Society • The Gardens Trust • The Theatres Trust -statutory consultee on planning applications that affect land on which there is a theatre. 	<p>These national amenity societies are noted and have been added to the Planning Policy Consultee database.</p>
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Environment Agency

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The councils may wish to add reference to statutory consultees, such as us and Natural England, being able to provide charged pre-application planning advice for developers (possibly an addition for paragraph 4.9).</p> <p>Further information about the services provided can be found on the following gov.uk website link, which you may also wish to include in the document - Developers: get environmental advice on your planning proposals.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/developers-get-environmental-advice-on-your-planning-proposals</p>	<p>Reference has been added to paragraph 4.9 of the SCI.</p> <p><u>It must be noted that both Environment Agency and Natural England provide a charged pre-application planning advice service for developers. Further information can be found on GOV.UK.</u></p> <p>This link has been added to paragraph 4.9.</p>

National Highways

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We note that the SCI sets out the statutory and additional consultation measures that the Councils will undertake when consulting on Planning Policy documents and publicising planning applications and do not wish to comment upon the document.</p> <p>However, we would like to gently remind both Councils and their officers that:</p> <p>1. We welcome and encourage early engagement with both the Councils and any applicants regarding plans, programmes or proposals that could/will impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN).</p> <p>Our pre-application engagement is currently free of charge.</p> <p>2. We, the Spatial Planning Team within National Highways, act as the statutory consultee on behalf of the Department for Transport Secretary of State. We will be concerned with plans, programmes and/or proposals that have the potential to impact on the safe, reliable and/or efficient operation of the SRN.</p> <p>3. Any mitigation required to offset the impacts of plans, programmes or proposals on the SRN will need to be secured via a 1980 Highways Act Section 278 agreement. It cannot be secured via CIL since given that the CIL authority decides how and when to spend any sums collected.</p> <p>4. We recommend to all parties the use of our National Highways webpage:</p> <p>https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/</p> <p>Refer to Planning for the future: A guide to working with National Highways on planning matters (2023).</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>

Southern Water

Comment	Officer Response
Whilst not a statutory consultee on planning applications, it is important that Southern Water is consulted on major applications that may impact on the provision of water and/or wastewater services to existing customers, or for example, if the proposed development affects access to or the efficient operation of Southern Water's infrastructure.	Comment noted.

Goring and Ilex Conservation Group

Comment	Officer Response
May we, as a local conservation group, please be included regarding key updates on planning policy matters, SPDs and the Planning Policy Newsletter.	Noted. The Group is subscribed to the Worthing Planning Policy consultee database and the Group will be notified of any forthcoming policy consultations and updates through the newsletter.
When submitting on-line comments on planning applications, it would be useful when identifying the "commenter type" to include a box for local groups or similar.	Noted. This comment has been forwarded to the Planning team and it is being investigated.
The time for submission of representations after re-notification letters for revisions to submissions is 7 days. Is that rather short if the revisions are complicated/extensive?	A shorter period for amended plans is sometimes necessary to determine applications within the statutory timescale, but where possible officers will allow extra time for comments if the applicant agrees to an extension of the statutory time period.