

Statement of Public Consultation

This appendix sets out the process of public consultation undertaken by Derwentside District Council on the Consultation Draft of the District Local Plan. It is a statement listing those whom the Authority has consulted on the Plan and the steps taken to publicise the proposals.

The Consultation Process

The Consultation Draft of the District Local Plan was published in July, 1993 after having been appraised for consultation purposes by the District Council's Policy Committee and full Council. Notification of the publication of the Draft Plan was carried out through a press release which was issued to all local newspapers, some of which printed coverage of the Plan (notably the Consett and Stanley Advertiser).

Complimentary copies of the Plan were sent to a number of organisations and individuals including district councils, adjoining local authorities, statutory undertakers and Government departments, parish councils, local Members of Parliament and selected national and local organisations and interested groups. Standard letters accompanied the document inviting comments and views over a ten week period, until the end of September, 1993.

In addition to the Plan itself, a summary document and factsheet were also printed. Together with copies of the Plan, these were placed on reference at all Council offices and local and mobile libraries within Derwentside. The cost for purchase of the Plan was subsidised for both residents and local businesses within the District.

Apart from those receiving complimentary copies of the Plan a letter, factsheet and order form was also sent to over 1,600 addresses, to those persons having previously expressed an interest in the preparation of the Plan, advising them about the Plan and about where the Plan was available for reference.

Three exhibitions were prepared, and displayed over a 9 week period at 37 different locations throughout the District, at venues ranging from libraries, leisure centres, communal rooms, community centres, village halls, superstores and Council offices. On 25 occasions one of the exhibitions was staffed by officers from the Development Plans Section, and members of the public were able to raise questions, discuss proposals and make their views known.

Advertisements were placed in the Consett and Stanley Advertiser informing people about these exhibitions and posters were displayed locally when an exhibition was in a particular area. A list of exhibition venues is below.

List of Exhibition Venues

ANNFIELD PLAIN	:	Co-op	
BLACKHILL	:	Methodist Church Hall	(Staffed)
BURNHOPE	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
BURNOPFIELD	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
CASTLESIDE	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
CATCHGATE	:	Neighbourhood Office	
CONSETT	:	Wm Lows	
CONSETT	:	Belle Vue Leisure Centre	
CONSETT	:	Safeway	
CONSETT	:	Library	
CONSETT	:	In Shops	(Staffed)
CONSETT	:	Civic Centre	(Staffed)
CRAGHEAD	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
DELVES :		Village Hall	(Staffed)
DIPTON :		Communal Room	(Staffed)
EBCHESTER	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
GREENCROFT	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
HAMSTERLEY	:	Communal Room	(Staffed)
LANCHESTER	:	Library	(Staffed)
LANGLEY PARK	:	Neighbourhood Office	(Staffed)
LEADGATE	:	Community Centre	(Staffed)
MEDOMSLEY	:	Methodist Church Hall	(Staffed)
MOORSIDE	:	Neighbourhood Office	
QUAKING HOUSES	:	Village Hall	(Staffed)
SHOTLEY BRIDGE	:	Village Hall	(Staffed)
SOUTH MOOR	:	Library	(Staffed)
STANLEY	:	ASDA	
STANLEY	:	Louisa Centre	(Staffed)
STANLEY (SOUTH)	:	Neighbourhood Office	
STANLEY	:	Tommy Armstrong Centre	
STANLEY	:	Library	(Staffed)
THE GROVE	:	Resource Centre	(Staffed)

Invitations were sent to all nine parish councils within the District with the offer of a presentation about the Plan. Six of these requested, and were given a presentation.

The Response

Numbers of visitors to the staffed exhibitions varied considerably depending upon whether there were controversial proposals in the area. A total of 960 persons attended the staffed exhibitions.

Over 3,000 comments forms were picked up from either the exhibitions, Council offices or libraries and a total of 627 responses were received.

As expected, some of the proposed housing sites raised most comments from local residents with other comments concerning proposed new road schemes and Conservation Area designation. Nine petitions were also received objecting to elements of the Plan.

All of the comments received during the ten week consultation period were considered at a Policy Committee held in November, 1993. This included a schedule which detailed all comments received on the Plan by that time.

The Plan has been amended in line with many of the comments received. For example, a number of the more controversial housing sites are not included in this Deposit version of the Plan. A full list of policy changes to the Plan is contained in Appendix L.

Conclusion

An extensive public consultation exercise was carried out on the Consultation Draft of the District Local Plan. All comments received have been given full consideration and attempts to resolve issues of contention have been made prior to placing the amended Plan on deposit.

