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1	Consultation point	Section Title	Organisation Details	ID	Your Comments - Please make your comments below	Officer Response	Suggested Changes if necessary
2			Hythe Civic Society	57	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Statement of Community Involvement.. Hythe Civic Society has only one comment. This relates to the way in which the comments on planning issues in general are treated when submitted. It would be of much interest to the originators of any comment to receive a response as to why their comments were accepted in whole, in part or ignored. With no response it appears to many that their comments are just ignored which the Society doubts is the case.	All comments made on a planning application are considered prior to a decision being made. All material planning considerations are taken into account. A summary of the issues and the number of representations are provided in reports which are available to view on the council's website.  With regard to plan making consultations, unfortunately it is not always possible to respond to individuals, however we do respond to comments through Cabinet reports, which are published on the council's website. Summary tables of the consultation comments, the council's responses and the proposed changes are published alongside the Cabinet report for the early stages of consultation on a local plan and are made available to the Inspector(s) overseeing the examination. The final stage of local plan consultation (on Main Modifications) is held at the direction of the Inspector(s), and consultation comments are passed directly to the Inspector(s) to consider in drafting the final report - at this stage of the process it is not within the remit of the council to make changes.	For local plan consultations, the council will consider how the summary tables showing consultation comments and changes can be more prominently displayed on the council's webpages and highlighted through the council's social media channels.
3		Statement of Community Involvement (1)	Environment Agency, Kent Area Office	25	Thank you for your email. We have no comments to make on your draft SCI. Environment Agency	Noted.	
4		Statement of Community Involvement (1)	The Coal Authority	27	Thank you for your email below regarding the Consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement. The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas. As you are aware Folkestone & Hythe District Council lies outside the defined coalfield and therefore the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make on this Consultation.	Noted.	
5		Statement of Community Involvement (1)	National Highways	44	Thank you for inviting National Highways to comment on the above consultation. National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such National Highways works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity. We will therefore be concerned with proposals that have potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case the M20, the A20, the A259 and the A2070.  We welcome the inclusion of National Highways as a Statutory Consultee; however, we would like to include a statement on pre-applications, which encourages early engagement through pre-applications consultations.  Lastly, we would recommend adding a statement that articulates the role National Highways has in ensuring the safe, sustainable and efficient operation of the SRN.	Noted.  As part of the pre application process, if the need for input from National Highways is required this will be raised in the report given to the applicant.  Noted, however the purpose is to keep the document concise and we would have to include explanations of the roles of all statutory consultees. We could however	Add weblinks to relevant statutory consultee websites in Appendix A.
6		Statement of Community Involvement (1)	Kent County Council	72	The County Council notes that the SCI does not maintain consistent spelling, punctuation and grammar. It is therefore recommended that the document is reviewed and amended as necessary to ensure regularity across the document.	Noted, while every endeavour has been taken to proofread the document before the public consultation, it will be reviewed again before adoption.	Review document for consistent spelling, punctuation and grammar before adoption.
7		Statement of Community Involvement (1)		4	Thank you for consulting Ashford Borough Council on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). ABC has no comments to make on the SCI document. Kind regards, Spatial Planning - Ashford Borough Council	Noted.	
8		Statement of Community Involvement (1)	Historic England	46	Thank you for your email of 3 October 2022 inviting comments on the above document. The consultation process detailed in the SCI should be adequate in meeting the requirements of the Local Development Regulations 2004.  It will be important to ensure that stakeholder organisations with interests and responsibilities in the historic environment, at national and local levels, are fully involved throughout the consultation process. To this end, it is important to consult with both the Council's own conservation office or team, the County archaeological adviser and local amenity societies.  In terms of the general requirements of consultation in relation to the historic environment, I attach a Note on Consultation with the Heritage Sector and a list of national amenity bodies.	Noted and thank you for the information	Add the list of national amenity bodies to our consultation database.

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9		Statement of Community Involvement (1)	Natural England	26	Thank you for your consultation request on the above dated and received by Natural England on 3rd October 2022. Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications. We regret we are unable to comment, in detail, on individual Statements of Community Involvement but information on the planning service we offer, including advice on how to consult us, can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals">https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals</a> . We now ask that all planning consultations are sent electronically to the central hub for our planning and development advisory service at the following address: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk This system enables us to deliver the most efficient and effective service to our customers.	Noted	
10		Statement of Community Involvement (1)		73	I very much wanted to take part in the public consultation, but despite being a reasonably intelligent person, I found myself unable to understand the information on the website, it was not written for the layperson and did not appear to be a consultation document for the public to use and put forward their views. It was difficult to navigate and I did not understand how I was supposed to comment on the process of making and communicating planning decisions to the public. My experience of using your website is that it is not designed to be user friendly. I am left feeling very disappointed that I have been unable to contribute my views.	Sorry to hear you experienced problems. We do try to ensure there are multiple ways to make comments, so that we are not solely dependant on the consultation portal. Officers are also happy to help if people are having difficulties.	
11		Enquiries about planning	Kent County Council	58	The County Council recognises that email addresses and phone numbers have been provided for people to contact Folkestone and Hythe District Council regarding information about planning. However, it is recommended that there is a means for people to contact the Council if they need to request plan-making documents in an alternative format.	Noted	Add statement to the enquires about planning page, saying 'Please contact the Council if you need to request plan-making documents in an alternative format'
12		Enquiries about planning		6	Folkestone and hythe planning portal is very clunky and I find looking for planning drawings and documents difficult. It could be much easier	Noted. The portal is provided by an external supplier and we will pass these comments on to them.	
13		Enquiries about planning		14	I do not find the planning portal at FHDC user-friendly. Too many clicks are required to access documents and I fail to understand why, having scrolled down to complete enquiry details, you are then required to scroll back to the top to click on search. Surely search should be at the bottom of the page...	Noted. The portal is provided by an external supplier and we will pass these comments on to them.	
14	1.3	Paragraph		15	This is admirable in principle but, over the years, experience has shown that local communities have very little say in shaping the district. Feedback is routinely ignored and the fact that a local authority can grant itself permission to develop its own land is farcical viz. Princes Parade. The overwhelming majority of local residents are against the development of Princes Parade but their views were ignored. The change I would like to see is merely an adherence to this principle.	Noted, the district council takes all comments into consideration but has to balance these against council policy and government legislation/ guidance.	
15	1.3	Paragraph		30	Generally, stakeholders are not interested in our natural environment whereas local communities are.	We consult all bodies to ensure all issues are considered. For example we consult Natural England, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Downs AONB Unit, Parish Councils on issues related to the natural environment. For the plan-making process, draft policies and allocated sites are tested against sustainability criteria in the Sustainability Appraisal and the results of this assessment process will be used to inform subsequent drafts of the local plan. The local plan will also be subject to a series of Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) to test its impacts on sites of international importance for wildlife. These assessments are themselves consulted on with statutory bodies and local people, and will be reviewed by independent planning Inspectors as part of the examination of the local plan.	

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16	1.3	Paragraph		32	Whilst this is an obviously laudable intention, the council must recognise that accessing the planning system in any meaningful way is extremely daunting. This feeling is amplified by an overwhelming sense that 'the system' is not really interested in what is said and that consultation is an unavoidable inconvenience. That is the nub of the problem that this consultation needs to overcome if it is to mean anything at all. The outcome of any consultation should be some level of discernible change, not explanations of why things can't be changed. Or worse, the absence of explanations about why nothing has been changed, evoking feelings of done-deals etc. There is a strong sense that doing enough is sufficient. Acknowledging that resourcing is a major problem nonetheless the council should always strive to go beyond fulfilling any legal minimum requirements.	Noted, the district council takes all comments into consideration but has to balance these against council policy and government legislation/ guidance. Where new relevant information comes to light the council will amend draft local plan documents.	
17	2	How you can get involved in planning		28	Thank you for your letter. As Sellindge residents my husband and I are so disappointed at the horrendous amount of building that has been done. A lovely village in the country to an enormous housing development with no infrastructure. The houses are all so close with no outlook and nowhere to park. The A20 has been narrowed and the traffic increased. . When the M20 has a problem the amount of traffic makes the residents along the A20 virtual prisoners as the traffic is nose to tail. Years ago (over 20) the council said that there would be no ribbon development and that the houses would stop at Grove House and the road opposite Moorstock lane.. That has been rubbished. I think that there is in the pipeline another huge development with Gladman's to build over 100 houses on green fields which will make a lot more traffic on a dangerous bend in the road. A few years ago there was a problem with water coming out of the field which had to be taken away in large water carriers. I took photos of the problem. There is little public transport for people and the last bus goes at 6pm so youngsters cannot go to evening venues to meet up with friends. Another thing that we have witnessed is the lack of birds. We used to have so many and now hardly any which is very sad. Please consider the well being of the residents and the flora and fauna of our village.	The council has to identify suitable sites for future development, to meet the government's housing targets. An adopted local plan gives some assurance to the amount of development that should come forward, the current Local Plan sets out the level development to 2037. However the legislation sets out that if we don't meet these targets other development sites can come forward.  Issues such as flooding, traffic, nature consultation etc are taken in to account as part of the plan-making process and when planning applications are submitted.	
18	2	How you can get involved in planning	Kent County Council	59	The County Council would advise that a link is added as a footnote to the relevant webpage for the Minerals and Waste Plans prepared by KCC.	Noted	Add link in footnote
19	2.2	Paragraph		47	The evolution of local plans is not fully understood by the general population, the timeframes involved usually defeat all but the most committed, and so often the language used is specialist or technical. It's difficult to know when where to start with the amount of detail but too often proposals put for consultation are framed in we will do this or we are doing this, and not as it should be what we would like to do is this because. proposals put for consultation are framed in we will do this or we are doing this, and not as it should be what we would like to do is this because. Making comments on planning applications is	Noted, the SCI does set out all the ways we will consult the general public and the council will endeavour to ensure this is clear for future consultations. As regards the preparation period for local plans, the Government announced in the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) that only 39 per cent of local authorities have adopted a local plan within the last five years (the district council has adopted two local plans within the last five years, the Places and Policies Local Plan in 2020 and the Core Strategy Review in 2022). The Government is considering measures that would set out a statutory timeframe for the preparation of local plans of 30 months. Within this statutory period there would be certain set timescales for public consultation. If these reforms are enacted as proposed, then the council will be required to meet the new timescales for local plan preparation.	
20	2.3	Paragraph		34	I feel that sometimes, when consultation views are published, they lean towards the views that are favourable to the District Council.	The council publishes all comments submitted to planning consultations. Decisions have to be made balancing a number of factors, including national planning legislation and policy, local plan policies, consultation comments and the merits of the development proposal.	
21	3.1	Paragraph	Kent County Council	60	It is advised that this section references the document complying with the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations, particularly around the accessibility of documents and websites.	Noted, however Para 3.1 refers specifically to regulations around the production of SCIs. However we can make reference to the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations in para 3.2	Add reference in Para 3.2 to the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations
22	3.3	Paragraph		29	Yes, our District Council does involve the local community but the local community has little or no say in protecting our natural environment from development.	Noted, the district council takes all comments into consideration but has to balance these against council policy and government legislation/ guidance. In relation to the natural environment the council consults Natural England, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Kent Wildlife Trust, the Kent Downs AONB Unit, Parish Councils and the wider general public. For the plan-making process, draft policies and allocated sites are tested against sustainability criteria in the Sustainability Appraisal and the results of this assessment process will be used to inform subsequent drafts of the local plan. The local plan will also be subject to a series of Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) to test its impacts on sites of international importance for wildlife. These assessments are themselves consulted on with statutory bodies and local people, and will be reviewed by independent planning inspectors as part of the examination of the local plan.	

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23	3.3	Paragraph		48	The guidance given in NPPF is of course helpful but it is something of a sledgehammer document that applies nationally, somewhere in amongst this there is a need for local discretion and the application of what can best be described as "common sense". When applicants are refuse consent for relatively trivial matters, barely visible to themselves let alone neighbours, it's sits very badly when major applications alongside the location granted consent with some form of casual comment about a greater good that mitigates. There are too many instances where these two outcomes occur simultaneously. These are issues which bring Planning into disrepute and explain in many instances while why engaging with people is so difficult. There needs to be far more explanation in plain words that accompany major issues, particularly the need that this should be open transparent and totally honest.	With regard to the Development Plan the NPPF needs to be followed, but there is opportunity to reflect local circumstances in the policies.  When deciding planning applications, the law states that these should be determined using adopted Development Plan policies and other material considerations, such as government legislation.	
24	3.5	Paragraph		31	Yes, digital engagement is good but should involve local knowledge, a desk study in most cases achieves a good outcome but not in all cases.	Noted, digital engagement is to enhance contact with the public and engage with those that might struggle to get to a physical event. The Government's Planning White Paper (2020) and the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) stress the importance of digital engagement in the planning process, and the council is currently exploring how this can be improved. The Government particularly sees this as a way to involve younger people in the planning system, who, on the whole, do not get involved in planning consultations.	
25	3.6	Paragraph		49	Oh that this should be welcomed with open arms even by overburdened planning departments. Early engagement must draw in communities and should benefit from local input and knowledge. The notion of stakeholders really should be expanded to actively encourage individual participants and not just statutory organisations and administrative bodies. It may be that this is something which could be started between applicant and authority but needs to progress down a train fairly rapidly to encourage responses and inputs, whether positive or negative. It's a reality that it is easy to generate objection to any proposal, the trick is always to find ways of encouraging out positive responses. It's a reality that it is easy to generate objection to any proposal, the trick is always to find ways of encouraging out positive responses. Then the issues can be actually judged in their entirety and with the proper balance. The actuality of pre-application discussions has too often seen as a rubber stamp for an application particularly with major proposals. Nobody said this would be easy, nor should it be.	Comment noted	
26	3.7	Paragraph		35	Are these documents up to date or will there have to be alterations in accordance with the 2020 Planning for the Future White Paper?	The documents are currently up to date, but government guidance sets out that local plans have to be reviewed at least every 5 years, or sooner if circumstance change. It is likely that the next local plan will have to follow the new legislation and regulations, which will follow when the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (May 2022), currently before Parliament, receives Royal Assent and becomes law (likely to be in 2023).	
27	3.7	Paragraph		50	These documents are difficult to comprehend for a non-technical, non-specialist audience. The process involved in commenting and paying attention to the progress of these through their frankly staggeringly tedious and time-consuming preparation would seem to a cynical mind to be aimed at exhausting those who might inconveniently wish to respond in any thing other than positive mindsets.	The council will try to ensure documents are easily accessible and adequate time is given for comments. As regards the preparation period for local plans, the Government announced in the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) that only 39 per cent of local authorities have adopted a local plan within the last five years (the district council has adopted two local plans within the last five years, the Places and Policies Local Plan in 2020 and the Core Strategy Review in 2022). The Government is considering measures that would set out a statutory timeframe for the preparation of local plans of 30 months. Within this statutory period there would be certain set timescales for public consultation. If these reforms are enacted as proposed, then the council will be required to meet the new timescales for local plan preparation.	
28	4	Our Community Involvement Principles	Kent County Council	61	Figure 1: Our community involvement principles Transparent planning processes The County Council would recommend that the first two bullet points in this section are revised to avoid repetition regarding the clarity of the consultation.	Noted, agree to change	Amend the first two bullet points so there is no repetition, as suggested below: *Make the purpose and scope of planning consultations clear from the start *Take account of views received.
29	4.1	Paragraph		51	There is a significant problem with applicant pre-application consultations with "the community" has this so frequently seems to be little else than a rubber stamping box ticking exercise. In theory this sort of consultation should be informative but very rarely is there any obvious change to proposals in response to local communities or individuals. The sense that community comments or input is on the level of choosing the colour of front doors rather than what lies behind those doors is very real. there is always some chance that the outcome might well be apocryphal camels put into many instances there is a little genuine consultation sought by applicants.	The Council seeks to ensure that developers undertake consultation beforehand when relevant and this is considered when the application is submitted. However the council will continue to ensure that communities are engaged as fully as possible through the rest of the process.	
30	4.1	Paragraph		16	The community would welcome an adherence to these principles.	Noted	
31	Table 1	Community involvement in Plan-Making	Kent County Council	62	KCC notes Table 1: Community involvement in Plan-Making in the document and would request clarification on whether all tables in the document work acceptably for screen readers.	Noted, all future documents will be checked to ensure they work for screen readers.	

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32	6	Who we will involve in Plan-Making	Kent County Council	63	It is advised that the text is amended to confirm the extent of consultation events that stakeholders have been or can request to be involved in. For example, if this is limited to consultation events such as information and participation activities, or if general consultations are also included.	Noted, add sentence to para. 6.2	Amend para 6.2: New consultees can be added to the consultation database at any time. Anyone who wishes to be added can do so by contacting the Strategy, Policy and Performance Team. <u>Consultees can be involved in all 'levels of involvement' throughout the plan making process.</u>
33	6.2	Paragraph		52	This needs to be far better and wider advertised than seems to be the case currently.	Noted, we will ensure the Consultation Database is highlighted with each consultation that's carried out and make it more visible on the website	Include information about the Consultation Database on council webpage: About planning consultations
34	7	How we will involve you in Plan-Making	Kent County Council	64	Leaflets and posters The County Council notes that QR codes will be used to link the community back to the Folkestone and Hythe District Council website. However, KCC would highlight that there has been a potential issue with GDPR and QR codes. IP addresses count as personal information and there are issues with these being collected and stored when QR codes are used. It is recommended that this method is further investigated to prevent this issue occurring.  Interactive workshops and focus groups (in person and online) The text mentions that this format may be more appealing to some people than traditional methods of consultation. KCC would note that in person interactive workshops have been used for many years in planning and would request clarification on whether the online element makes it non-traditional.	Noted, having consulted with the councils IT Department we have been told that there is no reason not to use QR codes as long as we advise what data is collected when using it and how long that data is retained, QR codes are no different to publishing a URL / weblink, as essentially they both do the same thing, direct users to a web page, website or online resource.  Noted, we will clarify the situation by deleting sentence starting with 'This format....' As regards reaching a wider audience, the Government's Planning White Paper (2020) and the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) stress the importance of digital engagement in the planning process, and the council is currently exploring how this can be improved. The Government particularly sees this as a way to involve younger people in the planning system, who, on the whole, do not get involved in planning consultations.	Delete the following text from Para 7.3: <del>This format may be more appealing to some people than traditional methods of consultation.</del>
35	7.3	Paragraph		7	The Council should invite local community groups and members of Conservation Area groups to submit databases of emails for these groups and communicate to them using these data bases - for Local Plan changes and individual planning applications.	Whilst we would encourage groups to communicate and exchange information amongst each other, there may be potential issue with GDPR if this data was passed to the council.	For local plan consultations, the council will consider how we might use digital brochures or newsletters that we could send to local groups who could then send them on to the people on their circulation lists, thus ensuring that there is no breach of data protection regulations regarding people's personal details.
36	7.3	Paragraph		53	Somewhere in this plethora of output and notifications there needs to be some simplification of the messages being sent out. The timescale for the production of any of the core planning documents is immense.	Agree, the purpose of the SCI is to use multiple methods of engagement such as social media to get the message across more clearly. As regards the preparation period for local plans, the Government announced in the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) that only 39 per cent of local authorities have adopted a local plan within the last five years (the district council has adopted two local plans within the last five years, the Places and Policies Local Plan in 2020 and the Core Strategy Review in 2022). The Government is considering measures that would set out a statutory timeframe for the preparation of local plans of 30 months. Within this statutory period there would be certain set timescales for public consultation. If these reforms are enacted as proposed, then the council will be required to meet the new timescales for local plan preparation.	
37	7.3	Paragraph		18	There is seldom adequate publicity for consultation events of any kind. Repeated notifications are required to ensure the community has an opportunity to take part.	Noted, the new SCI introduces wider methods of informing the public.	
38	8.1	Paragraph		36	There is an obvious format for this procedure, construction/development is important for our economy but there are too many small developers developing on local green spaces, leaving locals/residents with none. Not sustainable.	Noted, unfortunately this is not relevant to this consultation, however local plan policies are in place to protect green spaces. The council is developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy to conserve and enhance green spaces and areas of water for the benefit of wildlife, local residents and visitors. The Government is also developing proposals for Local Nature Recovery Strategies to enhance wildlife and habitats across the country. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent and Medway will be led by Kent County Council and the district council will help in its preparation and ensure that the broad county-wide proposals fit with local priorities and initiatives.	
39	11	Neighbourhood Plans and Development Orders		43	Neighbourhood Plans. I believe we have just one in the whole of the District ie St Mary in the Marsh, well done to them but such a poor show for the rest of the District. New Romney Town Council blames its residents for being apathetic and takes no responsibility itself! The Government is keen for communities to have such yet those that represent communities seem reluctant to pick up the mantle and yet blame the planning authorities when housing developments are built which upset them and their residents. I feel town/parish councils need to be more proactive and required to explain why they do not have a Neighbourhood Plan and what they have done to consult with the local community. It should not be just the word of a few councillors sat around a table believing they know what's best for their community in respect of something so important. Perhaps the Statement should be enhanced so that communities can see that those making decisions on their behalf have to show what they did in order to make those decisions, that they take these matters seriously.	Noted, but Neighbourhood Plans are not mandatory and they do take a considerable amount of time and resources. The district council will help those parish and town councils that wish to undertake them. A Neighbourhood Area has recently been approved for Lyminge, the first stage in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, and the council is helping Lyminge Parish Council with drafting its plan.  Unfortunately it is not within the remit of the SCI to say how parish and town councils undertake their work.	
40	11.1	Paragraph		5	Time and time again we see the local parish council decline planning for schemes, followed by the hythe and folkestone council granting it. Can't you trust the local councils view and leave it there. They must feel their voice is not really taken seriously.	Noted, the district council takes all comments into consideration but has to balance these against council policy and government legislation/ guidance. Parish and Town Councils can comment on planning applications, but they cannot refuse planning permission - this is the remit of the district council as the local planning authority, or Kent County Council in relation to minerals and waste developments.	

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41	12	Consultation on a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule	Kent County Council	65	Figure 5: Community Infrastructure Levy Process Stage 3 Examination and Adoption The County Council would request clarification on whether objectors to the CIL Charging Schedule may be allowed to appear in front of the examiner virtually as well as in person.	The decision to hear objectors either in person or virtually is down to the examiner undertaking the examination, however we will delete the reference to 'in person' in the text to not restrict options.	Revise Figure 5, Stage 3, bullet point 1 to: Objectors to the document may be allowed to appear in front of the examiner <del>in person</del> .
42	13	Community involvement on planning and related applications		42	New developments. Sometimes these can cause problems for existing residents without them realising eg older properties like Victorian cottages without space for parking and where these residents park on the road outside their properties or nearby waste ground - with recent new developments in New Romney residents have lost the spaces on waste ground and have had to park on the road - with a new development taking place now double yellow lines will mean they will have nowhere nearby to park. New developments have to provide parking provision for the new properties by what about existing residents living in old properties with no land to park. The first development mentioned above could have provided access to the rear of these older properties for existing residents to park at the bottom of their gardens. The second development could have provided some parking space for these older properties. And so a problem is shortly to arise because existing residents have nowhere to park nearby without causing more problems for other people and other motorists on the A259 - they clearly didn't have the foresight at the time to see what was coming their way. Yes, the existing residents could have commented on the planning applications but as I said sometimes it is necessary to lead people. In my view all tiers of local government involved in the planning process (county, district and parish/town) should have the foresight to recognise the problems that may arise for an existing community as a result of a development and take responsibility to contact existing residents or simply take action on their behalf. Much is said about looking after our heritage and environment but somebody needs to take responsibility. Town/parish councils especially are supposed to act in the best interests of their residents yet they tend to be reactive rather than proactive, preferring to sit at meetings making decisions on behalf of their residents without even consulting them. They should be expected to show that local residents have been consulted. Perhaps the Statement needs to be enhanced to recognise that whilst communities/residents have the opportunity to respond to planning applications, in some circumstances	The Council continue to ensure that communities are engaged as fully as possible. However, the council cannot require people to respond. As regards reaching a wider audience, the Government's Planning White Paper (2020) and the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) stress the importance of digital engagement in the planning process, and the council is currently exploring how this can be improved. The Government particularly sees this as a way to involve younger people in the planning system, who, on the whole, do not get involved in planning consultations. The Statement of Community Involvement does not cover the activities of Town and Parish Councils, however, these organisations could develop their own principles of engagement, should they wish to do so.	
43	13.3	Paragraph		8	When applicants are working in conjunction with the Council (say through Oportunitas) or individual Councillors this information must be made available to the public preferably at the pre-application stage.	Noted. All planning applications are associated with the land and not the owners or applicants. The applicants/developers/eventual owners may change and are not material considerations. All Councillors when determining applications are required to declare any interests in advance.	
44	13.6	Paragraph		9	When applicants are working in conjunction with the Council (say through Oportunitas) or individual Councillors this information must be made available to the public by the Council .	Noted. All planning applications are associated with the land and not the owners or applicants. The applicants/developers/eventual owners may change and are not material considerations. All Councillors when determining applications are required to declare any interests in advance.	
45	13.6	Paragraph		39	Yes, the consultation process is in place and all these points are adhered to, workshops, exhibitions of the proposals etc but developers use expensive consultants who advertise they are successful in gaining planning permission for sensitive sites, AONB, green field sites etc turning the outcome to their (the developers) advantage.	Noted, all planning applications need to be considered against the policies in the adopted Development Plan, unless material considerations, such as government policy and guidance or onsite conditions, indicate otherwise. The council can only resist inappropriate development if it has set out positive proposals in its own local plan and can demonstrate that a sufficient supply of development is likely to come forward. The district council is in a stronger position to do this as it adopted the Places and Policies Local Plan in 2020 and the Core Strategy Review in 2022.	
46	Table 2	Publicity requirements for all applications		19	21 days is inadequate for planning matters as important as some of those listed below. The publicity period should be 30 days for all application types except the final six on the list below.	Noted. This is the requirement set out by Central Government.	
47	Table 2	Publicity requirements for all applications	Kent County Council	66	Table 2: Publicity requirements for all applications The County Council would advise that the Identified on Councils website heading is revised to Published on Councils website to clarify the status of applications.	Noted and agree.	Change title in Table 2 Identified on Councils website to: <u>Published on Council's website</u>
48	Table 2	Publicity requirements for all applications		10	Minimum period should be 30 days for all development types as it will increase the response rate - the reach of neighbourhood letters is far too low so residents must rely on other means of communication.	Noted. This is the requirement set out by Central Government.	
49	13.13	Paragraph		40	approved planning applications often stipulate that specific things need to be done by the developer outside of building houses eg a bench needs to be installed at a certain location, archaeological/historical information needs to be provided on a plaque and displayed at a certain location, S106 requirements. Who actually polices these requirements to ensure they are delivered? My experience is that many such requirements do not come to fruition and are forgotten about and sometimes S106 monies are used for other purposes which I understand is illegal. It would help communities to know that somebody is policing these requirements, it would give them more faith in the process. Perhaps the Statement could cover this and may be give the community details of how to raise their concerns when they feel requirements have not been met.	The Council monitors all s106 agreement obligations and CIL expenditure and publishes regular monitoring reports. All s106 obligations are set out in reports and subsequent agreements and are available for public inspection.	

	A	B	D	E	F	G	H
1	Consultation point	Section Title	Organisation Details	ID	Your Comments - Please make your comments below	Officer Response	Suggested Changes if necessary
50	13.13	Paragraph		54	In the case of nonmaterial amendments applications And there are many instances where they should be consulted, as what is minor to some is actually substantial to others. I think and there are many instances where they should be consulted, as what is minor to some is actually substantial to others. I think here of instances where landscape proposals are tinkered with or adjusted because of some inconvenient TPO which can no longer be sustained. Matters which would've been quite obvious at initial planning stage and with promises would have been made by applicants, only to apparently be rather casually dispensed with. Consulting NMA applications would avoid the common issue of local communities or neighbours being surprised after the fact rather than at least being allowed to have an understanding of why a change is coming about.	This is a matter of judgement and balance based on the facts of each application. Through MyAccount neighbours can be notified of applications irrespective of consultation requirements and are able to comment	
51	14.3	Paragraph		11	The scope of neighbourhood letter reach is far too low. The Council should encourage Conservation Area groups and other community groups to submit a database of emails for these groups and send out the application notifications accordingly.	Noted. It is currently open to all residents to comment on applications irrespective of receipt of a notification letter. Local residents and groups can also sign up to planning application alerts on the Council website via MyAccount.	
52	14.3	Paragraph		20	The principle on which neighbours are notified by letter is inadequate. Whilst they may not be an immediate neighbour of the site under consideration the development may have a material affect on them and their property, so anyone within a specified radius should receive a notification letter.	Noted. The proposals meet those set out Central Government Guidance. The features of MyAccount allow for individual residents to set up an individual notification radius.	
53	Figure 6	Neighbour Consultation Diagram	Director for Growth and Communities Kent County Council	67	Figure 6: Neighbour Consultation Diagram KCC notes that the notification of planning and listed building applications will also be sent to the relevant parish or community council. There are numerous references to parish councils in the document and KCC would request clarification on the terminology of community council in this text. Local Press The County Council would recommend that there is a Council Website subheading as the information included is not suitable under the current Local Press heading.	Noted and agree. Community Council to be changed to town council. Local Press: Agree to be consistent with Table 2.	Revise wording in para. 14.5 to: Notification of most planning and listed building applications will also be sent to the relevant parish or <u>town</u> council and responses will be invited....  Insert new subheading 'Council Website' between para. 14.9 and 14.10 .
54	14.4	Paragraph		12	The Council should encourage Conservation Area groups and other community groups to submit a database of emails for these groups and send out the application notices accordingly.	Noted. It is currently open to all residents to comment on applications irrespective of receipt of a notification letter. Local residents and groups can also sign up to planning application alerts on the Council website via MyAccount.	
55	14.7	Paragraph		13	The trouble is - they are not. It appears that the Council leaves the placing of the notice to the developer which invariably means the notice is deliberately obscured.	All yellow site notices are placed on site by Council Staff. A photograph of the notice in its visible location is then placed on the file for record.	
56	14.7	Paragraph		21	Experience has shown that site notices are seldom clearly visible. They should be larger and printed on fluorescent paper. Also, where a site lies between two areas which will be affected by the developemnt, care should be taken to ensure that both sides of the site display a notice. This was not the case with the recent proposed development of the Aldi site in Hythe High Street.	All yellow site notices are placed on site by Council Staff. A photograph of the notice in its visible location is then placed on the file for record. Depending on the scale of the development the Council continues to assess the need for an appropriate number of notices.	
57	14.7	Paragraph		38	The White Paper 2020 states planning applications are not going to be advertised on lamp posts etc. Has this changed?	The White Paper proposes using digital services to be notified of planning applications in the future. At present the current law still requires notices to be placed on site. When legislation changes the Council would comply with new requirements. The Council's MyAccount already allows for residents to be notified of development without the need for a site notice or letter.	
58	14.11	Paragraph		55	This facility should be much more	Noted. MyAccount currently provides notifications of up to 500m or 0.5km from a property. This could be reviewed once details of the White Paper's proposals to move to fully digital emerge.	
59	14.11	Paragraph		37	MyAccount is a good thing but should encompass a larger area.	Noted. MyAccount currently provides notifications of up to 500m or 0.5km from a property. This could be reviewed once details of the White Paper's proposals to move to fully digital emerge.	
60	15	How to make a comment on an application	Kent County Council	68	The text mentions that peoples comments should not include personal data, which is contradicted in the following sentence. KCC would therefore advise that this section amended to reflect that the only personal information that should be included in comments is their name and address. The County Council would also recommend that the last two paragraphs in this section regarding comments of a defamatory nature are combined to avoid repetition.	Noted and agree to change para 15.5.  Noted and agree to amend Para 15.6 and delete para 15.8.	Revise Para. 15.5 to: Care should be taken when making comments to the council to ensure that no personal data <u>other than name and address</u> is included and that the information provided....  15.6 In some specific circumstances public comments may not be published on the council's website. This is usually when comments either contain sensitive information about the applicant or person making the comment, or the comments are of an inappropriate or defamatory nature bearing no relevance to the planning process. Please note, unfortunately such comments may still be viewable prior to any removal and viewable online and by visitors to the Civic Centre. It is therefore your responsibility to ensure you do not include defamatory remarks in your comments as you could be held legally responsible for them in the future.

	A	B	D	E	F	G	H
1	Consultation point	Section Title	Organisation Details	ID	Your Comments - Please make your comments below	Officer Response	Suggested Changes if necessary
61	15	How to make a comment on an application		23	When the planning application for Otterpool comes before the Planning Committee will the sheer volume of opposition comments have any consideration? If FHDC are sincere in their intention to consult and take into account the views of local residents then this application is destined to fail. At least 95% of moments are opposed to Otterpool so how can it possibly proceed if there is any democracy?	All comments will be considered and the issues summarised within the public report. A link to all the comments will also be provided in any report to the Planning & Licencing Committee. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The council must assess all consultation comments to see if they raise valid points for the decision-making process. The council cannot simply refuse planning applications that receive objections. Where a planning application is refused, the council must give robust reasons for the refusal; it may be challenged by a planning Inspector if it has made the decision without sufficient justification.	
62	16	Consultation on decisions		41	CIU/S106 payments/requirements - Transparency. I understand there is a legal requirement to publicise and give communities easy access to this information. It would be useful for reference to be made to this and where the information can be found so that communities can see and check what contributions are being made and for what purpose.	Noted. All reports set out what obligations are requested and for what purpose. The Council monitors these and publicises. All s106 agreements are available for public inspection.	
63	18.1	Paragraph		17	This should state, in addition, 'Concerns will be followed up by the Council's Planning Enforcement Officer'.	Noted. Suggest paragraph wording is amended.	Change text to the following: The council's role in enforcing planning regulations is set out on the council's website in the adopted Planning Enforcement Protocol. <u>People wishing to report potential breaches of planning control should complete the online Planning Enforcement Complaint Form, or email <a href="mailto:planning.enforcement@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk">planning.enforcement@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk</a>. Any such reports will be considered in accordance with the process set out on the Council's website.</u>
64	21	Glossary	Kent County Council	69	Equality Group It is recommended that this definition makes reference to the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act, which are also reflected in the Folkestone and Hythe Equality Impact Assessment. The County Council would also highlight that there is a distinction in the protected characteristics between sex and gender identity and reassignment and would therefore advise that the text is revised to recognise this.	Agree, suggest wording is amended	Change glossary definition to: Equality Groups – The Equality Act identifies protected characteristics, which are also reflected in the Folkestone and Hythe Equality Impact Assessment as: Disability; Race (including Gypsy and Traveller); Age; Gender; (including gender identity and reassignment), Transgender; Sexual orientation; religion/belief; pregnancy and maternity; marriage or civil partnership status.
65	Table A	Consultation on Development Plan Documents	Kent County Council	70	Consultation on Development Plan Documents Stage 3: Publication of a Local Plan How we will inform you The County Council recognises that digital tools are aimed to be used to inform consultees in the preparation of a Local Plan. KCC would therefore recommend the consideration of document commenting to allow people to directly add comments onto the Local Plan.	Agree, we have that option on the Consultation Portal, which is promoted as the preferred way for people to make representations. However to ensure this is clear, text will be added to the first bullet point. The Government's Planning White Paper (2020) and the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) stress the importance of digital engagement in the planning process, and the council is currently exploring how this can be improved. The Government particularly sees this as a way to involve younger people in the planning system, who, on the whole, do not get involved in planning consultations.	Appendix B, Table A, Stage 3, How we will inform you, 1st bullet point: Publish the draft plan and supporting documents on the council website, <u>including the Consultation Portal</u> for a minimum of six weeks.
66	Table B	Consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)	Kent County Council	71	Consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) Stage 2: Publish draft for consultation How we will inform you The County Council would recommend that the text is revised to include the Councils social media channels.	To reflect wording in Table A, we will add the word 'council'	Appendix B, Table B, Stage 2, How we will inform you, 5th bullet point: Advertise the consultation through the <u>council's</u> social media channels.