

Hurstbourne Tarrant Village Design Statement (VDS)

List of Respondents

Number	Respondent
001	Planning Policy Officer (TVBC)
002	Andover Ramblers
003	Natural England
004	Historic England

Hurstbourne Tarrant Village Design Statement

Schedule of Responses

<p>Summary of Comment</p> <p>Not all of the document listed on page 5 are classed as supplementary planning documents (001)</p>
<p>Response</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>Change</p> <p>Change from <i>three supplementary planning documents</i> to <i>additional planning guidance</i></p>
<p>Summary of Comment</p> <p>It would be worth pointing out that if any new development of a number of houses affects Public Rights of Way then the Guidelines Defra Circular 1/09 Version 2 should be complied with. (002)</p>
<p>Response</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>Change</p> <p>Page 55: Hampshire County Council has statutory responsibility for Public Rights of Way. HCC increasingly depends on Parish Councils, Ramblers Groups and the goodwill of landowners to help with maintenance and accessibility. Developments affecting a Public Right of Way should follow Defra's "<i>Rights of Way Circular 1/09 Version 2</i>".</p>
<p>Summary of Comment</p> <p>On page 54 it may be worth making the point that the Test Way long distance footpath crosses the busy road. (002)</p>
<p>Response</p> <p>After reviewing this section of the report, we feel that introducing a reference to the Test Way in this particular context would detract attention from the key issue of pedestrians having to cross the A343 in the vicinity of the The Square. The Parish Council has considered measures to improve the A343 crossing, including re-routing the footpath.</p>
<p>Change</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Summary of Comment</p> <p>On page 55 Hampshire County Council have the ultimate responsibility for maintenance of Public Rights of Way, although they do depend on Parish Councils and the Ramblers to help them. The responsibility of HCC for PROWs should not be lost or downplayed. Perhaps recognition of the Ramblers contribution should also be reflected. We have a Footpath Warden who regularly inspects the PROWs in the parish and have path maintenance teams</p>

that can clear paths and erect way markers etc. (002)

Response

Noted

Change

Page 55: Hampshire County Council has statutory responsibility for Public Rights of Way. HCC increasingly depends on Parish Councils, Ramblers Groups and the goodwill of landowners to help with maintenance and accessibility. Developments affecting a Public Right of Way should follow Defra's "*Rights of Way Circular 1/09 Version 2*".

Summary of Comment

Landscape

To preserve the wider landscape character of area, the Town or Village Design Statement should recognise and give appropriate consideration to the impact of the design statement on protected landscapes such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), if the town or village is within or adjacent to one. (003)

Response

Hurstbourne Tarrant does lie within the protected landscapes of the North Wessex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and this connection features prominently within the VDS and its guidance

Change

No change

Summary of Comment

Landscape

Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) provide a context for looking at possible changes and for seeking to ensure that the countryside character is protected and enhanced. Local area LCAs and those for protected landscapes (where applicable), should be cross-referenced as they are a useful tool to ensure that the Village Design Statement makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape, and avoids any unacceptable impacts. Following the principles of LCA at a local scale helps to capture the significant features, style and patterns of settlement and setting within the landscape and key views in and around the village. National Park and AONB Management Plans can also provide useful information for design statements within or adjoining protected landscapes.

Natural England is revising the suite of 159 National Character Area (NCA) profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience. NCA profiles are guidance documents which include a description of the key ecosystem services provided in each character area and how these benefit people, wildlife and the economy. They identify potential opportunities for positive environmental change and provide the best available information and evidence as a context for local decision making and action.

The revised and current NCA profiles are available on the NCA pages of our website for you to refer to. (003)

Response

Noted, we have reviewed the current NCA applicable to the parish (130 Hampshire Downs). The VDS already supports the listed Environmental Opportunities. The VDS makes explicit reference to the applicable LCAs, including maps and relevant extracts.

Change

Page 9 modified: The parish contains three principal landscape forms as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment. Natural England's "*National Character Area profile 130. Hampshire Downs*" provides a wider landscape context.

Summary of Comment**Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Design**

Green infrastructure is a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. It is often used in an urban context to cover the benefits including space for recreation, access to nature, flood storage and urban cooling to support climate change mitigation, food production, wildlife habitats and health & well-being improvements provided by trees, rights of way, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands.

Green infrastructure is also relevant in a rural context, where it might additionally refer to the use of farmland, woodland, wetlands or other natural features to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification. Green infrastructure maintains critical ecological links between town and country.

The Design Statement could usefully promote high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance provides an introduction to delivering green infrastructure at the micro and neighbourhood scale through features such as street trees, green facades and green roofs, where consistent with the local character. These features can be extremely important in increasing ecological connectivity between green spaces, particularly when footpaths and green corridors are not feasible. (003)

Response

Noted, we have reviewed the guidance which is primarily aimed at developers, planners and local authorities with an emphasis on urban spaces. The VDS places a strong emphasis on the interrelationship of green spaces, access to nature and the encouragement of biodiversity, particularly relating to multiple dwelling developments. On page 3 of the VDS the key aims of maintaining the scenery, natural environment and setting, which closely reflect the Natural England Green Infrastructure Guidance, are set out.

Change

VDS Page 2 add:

Other documents which should be consulted are:

- "*Green Infrastructure Guidance (NE176)*", Natural England, 2009
- "*Town and Country Planning Association Biodiversity by Design*". TCPA, 2004

Summary of Comment**Biodiversity**

The Design Statement should have recognised and referenced designated wildlife sites¹ and other biodiversity assets in the immediate area, such as protected species, ecological networks, habitats and green spaces. Design guidelines should respect, and where possible, enhance the town or village's local and neighbouring biodiversity resources. The Town and Country Planning Association have produced a practical and design orientated Biodiversity by Design guide to achieving high levels of biodiversity in developments, which may be of use. When preparing the Design Statement, your local Wildlife Trust and local environmental record centre should have been consulted, and local and national Biodiversity Action Plans should be referenced where relevant. (003)

Response

Noted, we have reviewed the guidance which is primarily aimed at the planning and development of sustainable communities of 500 to 150,000 homes. The VDS explicitly identifies many important green spaces. Local wildlife groups and individuals with specialist knowledge and interest in biodiversity were engaged in the consultation process and this is reflected in the responses to the questionnaire and the Planning Guidance. The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (part of HCC) will provide information on designated sites wildlife sites. A charge is made for this service and the information cannot be publicly published.

Change

VDS Page 15 Flora and Fauna add: *FF3 The impact of development on wildlife sites should be minimised.* The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre should be consulted to establish the location of wildlife sites.

Summary of Comment

Community Engagement

As an organisation, we are committed to involving the community in our work, ensuring that local people and the organisations that support them are consulted at the earliest possible stage. We are keen to see this principle adopted as part of the village design statement formulation process so that local people have a chance to contribute to the development of the statements from the outset. (003)

Response

The residents of Hurstbourne Tarrant have been consulted on throughout the process of compiling this document; pages 3 and 4 of the VDS which went to public consultation show examples of some of the methods used for community engagement as well as responses from the questionnaire which was sent to all households.

Change

No Change

Summary of Comment

No comments (004)

Response

Noted

Change

No change