

Date: 05 May 2021
Our ref: 349834
Your ref: Statement of Community Involvement



Planning Policy Team
Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council
Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement for Newcastle Under Lyme

Thank you for your consultation request on the above dated and received by Natural England on 14th April 2021.

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: <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>.

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.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Consultation Team.

Consultation Team



Historic England

Our ref: PL-00747362

Your ref:



planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

20 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft Statement of Community Involvement for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council March 2021

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Newcastle-under-Lyme, March 2021. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

Historic England supports the approach to community involvement as set out in the draft SCI on p.5/6.

Planning Policy

We note that the names of statutory bodies, including Historic England, are not specifically listed under the 'groups and organisations' mentioned in the 'Consultation Database' on p.10, para.2.6. We also note that relevant Government departments or agencies and other statutory bodies (including those listed in the regulations as "specific consultation bodies") are included in the list of 'Specific Consultees' at para.2.7 and in Appendix 1, in relation to Local Plan preparation, SPD production and Neighbourhood Plans. As Historic England is a "specific consultation body" we are satisfied that we are included as a consultee under the SCI.



Historic England, Midlands Regions Group, The Axis, 10 Holliday Street, Birmingham, B1 1TF

Telephone 0121 6256888 HistoricEngland.org.uk

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.





Neighbourhood Planning

With regard to the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) we welcome the inclusion of Historic England as a consultee, prior to the provision of a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening opinion (p.22).

We would also welcome notification of proposed neighbourhood planning areas as well as consultation on draft plans. The regulations state that Historic England should be consulted on draft plans where our interests are considered to be affected. We have guidance on neighbourhood planning, which can be found at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

Development Management

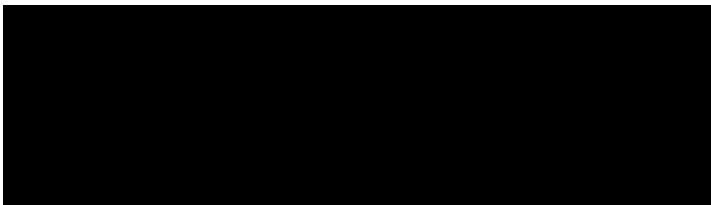
Whilst this is a very comprehensive section, Historic England suggests that it may be helpful to add clarification of when we would be consulted on an application. We have published guidance on when to consult Historic England on proposals for development management. These can be found at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/our-planning-services/chapter/when-we-are-consulted/proposals-for-development-management/>

In addition to the requirements of the legislation we would welcome consultation at an informal level, where issues may benefit from our early involvement. For information and for further consultation please note our consultation email address e-midlands@historicengland.org.uk

We hope that the above comments are of assistance. If you would like any clarification or would like to discuss the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Planning Development & Housing Service
Directorate of Regeneration & Development
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
ST5 1BL

Early Intervention & Prevention Unit
Ground Floor, Block 9
Staffordshire Police HQ
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0YY

Date: 17th May 2021

Planning Policy

RE: Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

The inclusion within the Statement of Community Involvement 2021 document of Staffordshire Police as a consultee within Appendix 1: Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Bodies, and as an ongoing consultee for a range of specific planning applications is welcomed. This accords with the government's recognition of the importance of designing out criminal and anti-social opportunities and designing in community safety wherever possible through the planning system to "create places that are safe ... and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience" (NPPF Para 127 f). Any opportunities that may arise from time to time for pre-application consultation with Staffordshire Police on more major planning applications would be welcomed.

The Statement of Community Involvement consultation document appears sufficiently clear, informative, well-structured and comprehensive. No obvious omissions, errors or unnecessary content were identified.

[Redacted Signature]

Crime Prevention Design Advisor

Keele Parish Council support the Statement of Community Involvement and find it helpful. We would make the following points:

- Keele Parish Council is pleased to note that the Statement of Community involvement recognises the need to that 'traditional methods' of consultation will continue to be used alongside digital technologies. We would note that this is not solely to accommodate those with limited or no access to digital technology. Digital consultation can default to 'pull' methodologies. Simply posting a consultation on a website does not alert members of the community to that consultation taking place. The use of email to 'push' information to users is limited by very limited range and accuracy of emails which the Borough has access to and email can be easily swamped in busy inboxes or sent to 'spam'. The use of Social Media is also restricted in its reach and preferences differ about platforms. A naive enthusiasm for e-communication can result in a limited reach and a failure in transparency rather than an improvement.
- Whilst recognising that COVID measures have made meetings and workshops untenable up until now, these limits should not apply from the 17th May and in all likelihood cannot apply after the 21st of June. We urge that the Borough move at pace to reinstate such consultations and do not use the waning pandemic to avoid face to face (or mask to mask) consultation.
- We agree (2.1) that "early and meaningful engagement and collaboration" is essential. We note, with a degree of regret, that our overtures about such engagement in the Local Plan have not borne fruit and we remain unaware of developments with regard the University Growth Corridor. It is unclear what is meant by 'early' or 'meaningful' in this context.
- 2.16 notes 'the Local Plan will also contain site specific allocations'. We applaud the Joint Local Plan Options Consultation for outlining options about such sites. We would urge that the same level of detail be provided in the Borough Plan Options consultation.
- We understand the pressures placed upon Local Authorities in Local Plan preparation and the urgency in moving forward with pace. Nevertheless, in the past, consultations have been timetabled to occur over too short period of time and at inappropriate times of year such as Christmas. We note that the guidance now stipulates a 6-week period for consultation. Can we also request that sensitivity is shown when timetabling consultations? Equally, the sooner consultees can be engaged in planning and have sight of critical documents, the more informed and useful will be the responses produce.



The Coal
Authority

Newcastle under Lyme: Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Contact Details

Planning and Local Authority Liaison Department
The Coal Authority
200 Lichfield Lane
Berry Hill
MANSFIELD
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

Planning Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk
Planning Enquiries: 01623 637 119

Date

25 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Newcastle under Lyme: Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Thank you for your notification received on the 14 April 2021 in respect of the above consultation.

I can confirm that the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make on the Statement of Community Involvement.

Yours faithfully


Development Team Leader (Planning)

Please see below comments from Audley PC.

Borough Council Plan update – Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement Local Plan –19th April 2021 – 5pm 31st May 2021 – see https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Planning/Planning_Policy/DevelopmentPlan/SCI%20Final%20-%20Consultation%20Version.pdf - RESOLVED to request physical consultations (which are in line with the new Covid measures) only when there are new housing sites being proposed within the Local Plan.

Thanks



Parish Clerk
Audley Rural Parish Council

