

# CONSULTATION STATEMENT

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Development Plan

Document Consultation 16/02/2011 – 30/03/2011



## I. What is the Sustainable Neighbourhood Development Plan Document (SNDPD)

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods (including Key Site Allocations) Development Plan Document (SNDPD) is part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is a set of documents which will guide planning and development in Plymouth until 2021 and beyond. The SNDPD will provide a strategic planning framework for parts of the city not covered by Area Action Plans (AAP). It will show all the major sites that might be required to meet Plymouth's needs for homes, jobs, shopping and recreation, as outlined in the Core Strategy.

There are at present adopted Area Action Plans for the City Centre and University, Central Park, Sutton Harbour, North Plymstock & Minerals, Devonport and Millbay & Stonehouse. Other Area Action Plans for Derriford and Seaton, The Hoe and the East End are being progressed but have not yet reached adoption.

The SNDPD covers the remaining 39 neighbourhoods in the City which are not covered by an AAP but could have long term changes to plan for.

As well as looking at the citywide perspective, it will also include:

- Suggestions to guide development that will address the needs of local communities.
- Identify areas that need protection to ensure that development will be resisted or carefully controlled where appropriate.
- Support connectivity and transport choices

This consultation document discusses the events that were held, the number of people who attended the events and a summary of the comments that were received throughout the process so far.

During the different stages of consultation, ideas have come forward from local residents and businesses to guide development that will address the needs of local communities.

## 2. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

All stages of this consultation have been carried out in accordance with the SCI which was adopted in 2006 and reviewed in 2008. To view this document go to

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sci.htm>

### **3. Issues and Options**

Work on understanding the issues and opportunities within Plymouth's neighbourhoods began in 2005 with the production of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Assessments. The purpose of these assessments was to:

- Review the role of local and neighbourhood centres in creating sustainable communities.
- Form the first layer of assessment in reviewing Plymouth's neighbourhoods.
- Highlight spatial planning issues and options
- Provide useful data for other kinds of strategy/service delivery within the city.
- Provide an initial 'health check' of neighbourhoods, and to be used alongside other studies and community and stakeholder engagement in the making of planning decisions.

These documents can be viewed at:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/brsustainableneighbourhoodassessments.htm>

More detailed work on the Sustainable Neighbourhood Development Plan Document started in each neighbourhood with an extended Issues and Options consultation in 2007. This was a year long consultation which took place between August 2007 and August 2008 and we looked at how each neighbourhood in Plymouth could become more sustainable over the next 15 years.

During this process we also asked people to identify any sites that they thought could be developed or should be protected from development. The consultation process is outlined below.

#### **3a. Issues and Options Consultation**

An important part of this consultation was to involve other departments, our partners and consultees and provide an opportunity to examine issues in a wide variety of ways. We were in direct communication with all of the above via our 'Involve' newsletter, through our consultation database and website updates.

Throughout the process Planning Aid was available to help give any support or advice to local residents or business.

We produced a DVD on how to get involved in the process of the Local Development Framework. Bulletin boards were set up on the consultation portal which enabled consultees to add comments on their specific neighbourhood. We produced mini guides on how to get involved which were placed in libraries, the Civic Centre reception area, and at our events and workshops.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2007 we held a city wide event on the Piazza area in Plymouth City Centre. A range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations were invited to the event and it was also a 'drop in' event for members of the public. We displayed Aerial photographs, the 'how to get involved' DVD and leaflets and display boards in relation to each neighbourhood.

All comments collected were then taken on to the neighbourhood workshops.

For each of the 39 neighbourhoods we arranged the following:

- A councillor walkabout for each neighbourhood to enable councillors to raise key issues with relevant officers from the Planning Department. This helped to inform the discussion for a series of workshops. A report was produced for each of the neighbourhoods.
- We held 13 focused workshops combining neighbourhoods. These were arranged with councillors selecting a group of people who they thought should attend along with school representatives, Primary Care Trusts, Police, local land owners and other community representatives. The workshops were arranged to focus on specific issues that had been raised from the councillor walkabouts and to look at other issues that had been identified from the Sustainable Neighbourhood Assessments and other studies.

Attendees were asked to put post it notes on 'The Egan Wheel'<sup>1</sup> which asked a series of questions about their neighbourhood and how it could be improved. This evidence was then pulled together to be presented to communities at specially arranged community events.

- Ten community events were arranged covering appropriate groups of neighbourhoods. The events were held in a variety of places such as supermarkets, pubs, and leisure centres. The local community were encouraged to participate in the findings of the workshops and the events provided an opportunity for people to speak with planning officers on a 1 to 1 basis. There was also an opportunity for other departments to arrange to meet with the public during this time and use the display to talk through specific projects within the respective neighbourhoods.
- Internal and external partners were encouraged to become involved in the process. They were invited to the workshops and the community events to discuss any programmes or projects happening in the area.
- 'Seldom Heard' group involvement - we held a number of discussion meetings and events throughout the consultation and held special workshops to target the following audiences:
  - **Young People** - Working with local geography teachers who incorporated the sustainable neighbourhood studies into their curriculums
  - **Gay Pride** - We had a stand at the Plymouth 'Gay Pride' event where we asked people in the community what their issues were where they lived, and ensured that comments were incorporated into the relevant neighbourhood.
  - **Respect Festival** - We had a stand at the Respect Festival where we engaged with different community representatives from ethnic backgrounds and cultures to understand any particular issues within the relevant neighbourhood.
  - **People with learning disabilities** - We attended the Highbury Centre in Peverell where we were able to engage with people about their perspective of the city and the particular issues that they encountered in their respective neighbourhoods.

It is important to note that this stage was a discussion about identifying potential development options or sites for protection from a range of sources. The findings of the issues and options engagement process together with other evidence helped inform the production of pamphlets for each neighbourhood for the Issues and Preferred Options stage.

Throughout the time we were not consulting we ran regular updates on our website to keep people informed of where we were with the document.

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<sup>1</sup> A tool for judging sustainable communities

The next stage of public engagement was the Issues and Preferred Options stage, details of which can be seen below:

#### **4. Issues and Preferred Options stage**

Following the Issues and Options stage the Planning Services had asked people across the city about the neighbourhoods where they live, work and play. After listening to those comments during 2008, the next stage was to prepare the Issues and Preferred Options for consultation. The details of which can be seen below:

The Issues and Preferred Options consultation took place between 16 February and 30 March 2011. Pamphlets were prepared for each of the 39 neighbourhoods that were not already covered, or proposed to be covered by Area Action Plans.

In addition to setting out what we had found out about neighbourhoods, we asked what changes people would like to see in their neighbourhoods, what improvements could be made, what was missing, and if they felt safe. The consultation documents and pamphlets can be viewed at <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldfsiteproposals.htm>.

An on-line consultation was set for 6 weeks between 16 February and 30 March 2011. Paper copies of response forms were also made available for people to make their comments and send back to us. The consultation responses can be seen at [www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldf).

All representations have been given a reference number beginning with SNDPD. The numbers range from SNDPD01 to SNDPD381.

We were unable to consider twenty representations as 11 contained no name or address, and 9 were received after the close of the consultation period

Below are details of the consultation events:

### **Consultation Events held for the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD Issues and Preferred Options 16 February – 30 March 2011**

Nine drop in events were held throughout the city in libraries during the six week consultation, details of these can be seen below. We held events for specific areas although details of all 39 neighbourhoods were available at each event.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Areas covered</b>	<b>Number of people attending event</b>
17 February 2011	Stoke Library	Stoke, Morice Town, Keyham, Ford	20
23 February 2011	Crownhill Library	Crownhill, Egguckland, Higher Compton, Hartley and Mannamead	43
23 February 2011	Plympton Library	Woodford, Yealmpstone, Plympton St Maurice, Chaddlewood, Colebrook and Newnham	55
7 March 2011	Estover Library	Widewell, Glenholt, Estover, Leigham, Mainstone and Derriford	40
9 March 2011	North Prospect (old) Primary School	North Prospect, Ham, Beacon Park and Pennycross	5
14 March 2011	West Park Library	Ernesettle, Whitleigh, Honicknowle, Manadon, Tamerton Foliot and Southway	30
15 March 2011	St Budeaux Library	Barne Barton, St Budeaux, Kings Tamerton and Weston Mill	46
23 March 2011	Plymstock Library	Plymstock, Elburton, Goosewell, Turnchapel, Hooe and Oreston	83
29 March	Efford Library	Peverell, Mutley/Greenbank, Mount Gould and Efford	80

In total we received 381 comments from 335 different contributing consultees.

The spread of comments from the 39 neighbourhoods is seen below:

Neighbourhood	No. of responses
Barne Barton	9
Beacon Park & Pennycross	1
Chaddlewood	6
City wide comments	7
Colebrook and Newnham	4
Crownhill	5
Derriford	5
Efford	37
Eggbuckland	6
Elburton & Dunstone	19
Ernesettle	5
Estover	19
Ford	12
Glenholt	5
Goosewell	2
Ham	1
Hartley & Mannamead	5
Higher Compton	5
Honicknowle	4
Keyham	2
Kings Tamerton & Weston Mill	11
Leigham & Mainstone	8
Lipson & Laira	4
Manadon	2
Morice Town	6
Mount Gould	4
Mutley & Greenbank	13
North Prospect	2
Peverell	5

Plympton St Maurice	4
Plymstock	10
Southway	8
St Budeaux	7
Stoke	13
Tamerton Foliot	12
Turnchapel, Hooe and Oreston	35
Widewell	3
Whitleigh	57
Woodford	6
Yealmpstone	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>381</b>

In addition to the above, we held consultation events for ‘hard to reach groups’, details of which are below:

Date	Venue	Areas covered	Number of people attending event
17 March 2011	Plymouth Shop mobility offices	All neighbourhoods	22
26 March 2011	City Centre Piazza Area - In an exhibition unit	All neighbourhoods	60

### Consultation with Seldom Heard Groups

Other groups who were also invited to be involved during the consultation period were:

- Plymouth Out – an exhibition was arranged at a Plymouth Out Event, this was initially postponed and subsequently cancelled by the organisers.
- Multi-lingual day families event – The organisers did not think that the consultation was suitable for their event.
- Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity – there was not a suitable event for consultation in the time scale.
- Plymouth Youth Service – Contact made with youth officers, but it was not possible to arrange a consultation meeting within the time available.
- Plymouth Disability Action Network – meeting not possible at this time but discussion with the Disability Engagement Worker drew out some key issues.

Below is a detailed list of where we advertised the consultation to encourage people to get involved.

A file with the neighbourhood pamphlets and paper copies of response forms were left at all libraries and the Civic Centre First Stop.

- Posters were put up in all local libraries detailing the consultation and where events were going to be held.
- An article indicating the dates and venues of the consultation was included in our February/March 2011 edition of the 'Involve' newsletter. This is distributed to over 5,000 people in total. This can be seen at [http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldf\\_newsletter\\_january-february\\_2011.pdf](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldf_newsletter_january-february_2011.pdf)
- A statutory public notice was placed in the local newspaper (The Herald) on 18 February 2011 detailing events and how the public could be involved in the process.
- An email was sent to all Councillors on 8 February 2011 informing them of the consultation with dates and venues and offering to provide them with any relevant information e.g. maps, or extra pamphlets.
- A letter was sent to every school on our database, informing them of the consultation and asking them to advertise the events through their weekly newsletters.
- A notice was put up in the library where an event was taking place a few days before, stating that Planning Officers were going to be in attendance.
- An email was sent to all Neighbourhood Liaison Officers informing them of the consultation with dates and venues, and offering to provide them with any relevant information e.g. maps, or extra pamphlets for display and discussion at neighbourhood meetings.
- Throughout the consultation The Herald ran regular press releases and neighbourhood profile articles which detailed the area in question and stating where the events were taking place.

## **5. Councillor Involvement**

During the consultation process the Councillors have been involved in the following ways:

### **Issues and Options – August 2007 – August 2008**

#### **Councillor Walkabout**

During the issues and options stage we held Councillor walkabouts in every neighbourhood. Councillors were given the opportunity to identify any particular issues relating to their neighbourhood.

#### **Workshops**

A workshop was held in each neighbourhood Councillors were invited to attend these workshops, and raised the issues that were identified at the walkabout stage.

#### **Community Workshop**

Information from these two events was then passed onto the public events where Councillors were informed and invited to attend.

## **City Centre and Big Picture Event**

The Councillors were invited to attend a City Centre event on the Piazza relating to all neighbourhoods in June 2007 at the beginning of the process. A special morning session at the Big Picture Event in August 2008 was arranged for the Councillors to attend

## **Issues and Preferred Options stage**

### **Councillor drop in event**

On 22 and 23 September 2010 we held 2 Councillor open days where all Councillors were invited to attend. These events were held in the Reception Room, Council House.

This event was intended to give all Councillors an opportunity to review and comment on the work undertaken in the process so far.

Throughout the process Councillors have been kept updated through our newsletters and invited to all consultation events.

## **6. Sustainable Neighbourhood Development Plan Document / Urban Fringe Development Plan Document ; Joint consultation with South Hams District Council**

We also held consultation in conjunction with South Hams District Council on the Urban Fringe Development Plan Document which covered areas such as Hemerdon and Woolwell.

The Urban Fringe DPD is a complementary document which is being jointly prepared by Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council. It deals with areas which immediately adjoins the city in South Hams, the plan takes a similar approach to the Sustainable Neighbourhood DPD in terms of being a bottom up community based approach which intended to deliver the local aspirations of communities and parishes on the edge of the city. It also is intended to provide a Green Infrastructure context for the area around Plymouth, providing an understanding of the city's relationships with its surrounding countryside.

A visioning event was held in September 2009 - the purpose of the visioning event was to explore in more detail the issues that characterise the urban fringe, and to understand opportunities for the future. More information can be found at

[http://www.southhams.gov.uk/index/residents\\_index/ksp-development\\_and\\_planning-forward/sp-forward\\_planning-local\\_development\\_framework/sp-forward\\_planning-plymouth\\_urban\\_fringe.htm](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/index/residents_index/ksp-development_and_planning-forward/sp-forward_planning-local_development_framework/sp-forward_planning-plymouth_urban_fringe.htm)

In September 2009 two workshops were held one in Hemerdon Village Hall the other at Woolwell Community Resource Centre. The findings of these workshops can be found at :

[http://www.southhams.gov.uk/hemerdon\\_emerging\\_issues.pdf](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/hemerdon_emerging_issues.pdf) and (Woolwell) - [http://www.southhams.gov.uk/woolwell\\_emerging\\_issues.pdf](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/woolwell_emerging_issues.pdf)

A consultation on the Urban Fringe documents was held between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Consultation events were held at Hemerdon Village Hall (1 March 2011) and Woolwell Community Resource Centre (3 March 2011 & 7 April 2011).

South Hams District Council representatives also attended the City Council's Sustainable Neighbourhood DPD events at Plympton Library, Estover Library and Plymstock Library during our six week consultation, and Urban Fringe DPD information was displayed at the West Park Library event.

During their consultation South Hams District Council received a total of 172 responses.

## **7. Where we are now**

The City Council has looked at all the representations and has provided a short summary of these for each neighbourhood. The summaries and fuller comments are posted on the following web site.

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/planning/planningpolicy/ldf/ldfsiteproposals/sustainableneighbourhoodsipo.htm>

Hard copies of individual neighbourhoods can be supplied on request or viewed at the Civic Centre Reception.