

Appendix B: Schedule of external SCI consultation responses

Chapter / Section / Paragraph	Representation	Consultee comments / matters raised	Council response	Update to SCI
0	Mr Michael Gadd	Will WDC look at putting in place a residents planning consultative committee similar to the Developer and Land Agents one this would truly be community involvement.	The aim of such a group is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings.	No change.
0	The Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee - Mrs Jacky Downing	Thank you for your letter of 1st May 2020 re the above. As you probably know, this committee is made up of representations of Town and Parish Councils along the length of and nearby the Uckfield Railway Line plus some user groups and other interested parties. Our remit is to work with relevant bodies to improve the existing service and achieve extensions in the future. Since public transport is a vital part of the infrastructure we obviously appreciate being consulted by Wealden District Council when you are drawing up the new Local Plan and considering planning applications. Consequently we very much want to continue to be included on your list of Consultees. As for specifics, we applaud your past policy of protecting the Uckfield/Lewes rail track bed and obviously wish that to continue. We would wish you to support proposals for the redoubling and electrification of the Uckfield to Hurst Green	Support for our approach to rail infrastructure improvements noted.	No change.

		<p>section of the line. In addition, with growing connectivity, economic, social and environmental issues at stake with a growing population, your support for a far sighted project such as Brighton Main Line 2 (BML2) is very desirable. Thank you for your attention. My contact details remain unchanged as above.</p>		
0	National Grid - Mr Matt Verlander	<p>National Grid assets: Following a review of the consultation event, we have identified one or more National Grid assets within the Plan area. Details of the National Grid assets are provided below. Electricity Transmission Asset Description 4VM ROUTE TWR (001 - 146): 400Kv Overhead Transmission Line route: BOLNEY - NINFIELD 1 A plan showing details of the site locations and details of National Grids assets is attached to this letter. Please note that this plan is illustrative only. Please also see attached information outlining further guidance on development close to National Grid assets.</p>	National Grid Assets within Wealden noted.	No change.

0	Dr Hana Krizek	<p>I am replying to your letter of 1.5.2020 on the subject of Community Involvement (SCI) consultation. You say you do not need to listen to the voices from the community, but want to consult anyway. This is good. Here are my suggestions: Most towns in Wealden, a rural district, need a by-pass both for cars and for bicycles and PEDESTRIANS to make the places liveable. At bigger contact & congregation points people need to park the vehicle they came in as well as to be very close by public transport for others. The public transport needs to be INTERCONNECTED and working in times, when ALL working people need it, not stopping at 4 or 5 pm. When designing houses a thought needs to be given to the fact, that more and more people will work from home- possibility to extent their house according to their needs, which will vary, not one size fits all. There will also be a need to accommodate more inter-generational families-need for flexibility for extending the houses, not one size fits all and no pockets are equally deep. The processes leading to extending the house need to be greatly simplified and shortened, by offering true consultation thus avoiding extra costs of time and money on both sides. A few thoughts, possibly confirming some of your thoughts.</p>	<p>These issues fall outside the scope of the SCI and will be addressed by the Local Plan</p>	<p>No change.</p>
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0	Mr John Blackman	The council must consult with all the necessary agencies concerned with protecting the wildlife and environment in my opinion.	We agree. There are statutory consultees that protect the environment, (such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Local Nature Partnership) that we consult with in relation to planning applications and for environmental reports we produce. We also have a long list of local wildlife /environmental groups on our consultation database for the Local Plan. If there is a specific group you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us at planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk	No change.
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0	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	<p>I am aware that this Consultation is about the Planning Policy and process. However I wish to comment about two areas which should be addressed in the new WDC Local Plan and which I hope will be considered by others making inputs to this consultation: 1 Housing Numbers / National Housing Need The withdrawn Local Plan stated 14,228 homes and the new Local Plan is likely to include a number closer to 20,000 following the comments from the UK Government Inspector. WDC should not roll over in response to UK Government pressure to deliver higher numbers of homes it should push back hard with respect to the Housing number and the means / formulae by which the number is constructed. Importantly, growth in Wealden is being driven by people coming into the District and not by internal business generated growth therefore the housing number in the Local Plan is about meeting 'National Need' not local needs. In February 2020 WDC announced that the WDC Local Plan has been withdrawn on grounds including failure to co-operate with neighbouring Districts and failing to take on their unmet housing needs. Wealden residents are being caught in a machine (UK Government and Local Planning Authorities) which will gradually force more and more housing into the District. The AONB is already being diminished and there is risk that the AONB as a body of land could be split up into smaller areas ringed around with high density low quality housing to meet the National need. 2 Effects of COVID on Housing Needs and The High Streets It is clear that the COVID-19 virus pandemic is having a hugely significant impact on housing</p>	<p>These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. We will be updating our evidence base on the District's future housing need in line with national guidelines/approaches but we will also take into account the local context of Wealden. This will include investigating all potential options for meeting housing need. We will also be updating our evidence base in regards to the District's landscape, including the High Weald AONB and in relation to the Districts town centres and high streets. The Council has a legal duty under national legislation to work with our neighbours on certain planning issues and the Council will continue to do so through the Local Plan process. Covid-19 will be considered in relation to evidence gathering and plan-making. We hope you will positively engage with us through the production of the Local Plan where the key strategic decisions on future growth are made</p>	No change.
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		<p>needs companies have found that many more people can work from home and indeed may prefer to do so. New homes will need to accommodate the needs of working from home high speed internet home office space. These changes need to be incorporated into the standards required of new homes. Use of electric vehicles will increase and overall vehicle usage will decline so the No impacts on the Ashdown Forest SAC will reduce - opening up opportunities for housing development closer to the SAC. This will reduce pressure on the High Weald AONB and Pevensy Levels and give opportunities for fairer distribution of housing across Wealden. The demand for office and retail space is declining and with many companies large and small going bankrupt there will be many buildings in attractive town / village centre locations coming vacant and suitable for residential conversion. The risk of further waves of COVID-19 or another virus epidemic will discourage ownership and use of High Street premises with more focus on running businesses from home or other less expensive locations. The High Streets in Wealden District are unlikely to return to what was considered 'normal'. WDC Planning should identify the opportunities to convert office and retail space into residential accommodation. This could meet a large proportion of the homes required if not all of what may be required for Wealden.</p>		
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0	Natural England - Mr Matthew Dean	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 .	Noted.	No change.
0	Lord Lloyd of Berwick	We are writing on behalf of the residents of Berwick in response to your recent draft Statement of Community Involvement Consultation document. We note that Berwick Parish Council have not been consulted. We are opposed to any major development in the village, and in particular to the application by Firle Estate for 33 houses on the parcel of land adjoining the garage. Rather than set out our reasons in the form provided, we refer you to the letter from Messrs Shakespeare Martineau on our behalf to WDC dated 20th January 2020. We also refer to your letter dated 1st June relating to SHELAA. We would for the same reasons object to any further sites being identified in the village in addition to the three sites already identified.	This is outside the scope of this consultation. Such matters are addressed through individual planning applications and will also be addressed through the production of the Local Plan. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future development in the District. We can confirm that we contacted Berwick Parish Council on 1st May 2020 at 12.33 to inform the Parish Council about the SCI consultation.	No change.

0	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	<p>As mentioned in my earlier comments I am aware that this Consultation is about the Planning Policy and process however I wish to also comment about other areas which should be addressed in the new WDC Local Plan and which I hope will be considered by others making into this consultation: Wealden Local Plan Framework Supporting Carbon Zero by 2050 There is a really important opportunity for the new WDC Local Plan to incorporate a 'Wealden Planning Framework' which will focus on conserving the valued landscapes of the High Weald AONB per the NPPF while delivering the number of homes needed to ensure the necessary growth in the District and supporting and delivering to the UK Government commitment that carbon emissions will be reduced to zero by 2050. If WDC and WDC Planning were to take a strong and bold lead in laying out a roadmap for the District which supports carbon zero by 2050, involves Communities and Neighbourhood Planning, puts The High Weald AONB Management Design Guide (for new developments) at the forefront, and demands that Developers deliver innovative (housing, commercial and retail) solutions with high standards of design and materials then there would be much more positive support and buy in to such a Plan from Wealden Residents. There is a massive difference between the above and the process today whereby Planning and housing development is something that is being 'done to' Wealden residents leaving them with a feeling that their views don't count, aren't wanted and 'get in the way of housing development being approved' and 'making the numbers'. The</p>	<p>These comments are outside the scope of the SCI which is focused on consultation and engagement in the planning system. The Council will engage on local plan matters through local plan consultations including considering the approach to climate change, landscape and design. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future planning policies on such matters.</p>	No change.
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		<p>statement in this consultation document that WDC does not have consult with residents does nothing to dispel these feelings / impressions - and I sincerely hope that WDC will indeed listen and properly consider all the comments which people have taken the trouble to make. The Issues: Commitment to zero Carbon by 2050 raises important issues for the new WDC Local Plan and commercial and residential development and new or improved infrastructure: the process of breaking into and excavating new ground creates carbon emissions through release of carbon from the soil the manufacture and use of new building materials creates carbon emissions the clearance of land which typically involves removal of grass, scrub and trees reduces the production of oxygen the reduction of arable or grazing land through development reduces the overall production of oxygen by grasses, scrub and trees and removes opportunity for use of that land for food production The Opportunities The WDC Local Plan should fully support the UK Government's Climate Change commitments to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Plan should require and incentivise that Developers whether large or small, commercial, residential or infrastructure, should: Use a minimum of percentage of recycled / recyclable materials Use electric / rechargeable vehicles in the development process / activities Where a housing development is of mixed sizes and incorporate affordable or lower cost housing at least 60% of the buildings should be prefabricated structures incorporating ready fitted kitchens and bathrooms and made to low carbon emission standards this type of building requires</p>		
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		<p>assembly on site only, takes less time to deliver a 'turn key' dwelling, uses less labour and should require less extensive foundations than traditional 'bricks and mortar'. Such buildings do not need to look incompatible with the valued landscapes... they can be clad with timber or other sympathetic materials which can also be recycled. Use 'different' methods of foundations to support buildings such as foundations laid onto the ground to support buildings rather than traditional excavations which release carbon into the atmosphere. There are now superior materials, technology and methods which could remove the need for 'digging holes and pouring concrete'. Provide high levels of energy efficiency in new or refurbished homes new homes should achieve an 'A' rated energy efficiency standard Provide means of renewable energy to deliver at least 80% of the energy requirements for each home either individually or to service groups of homes e.g.: Photo Voltaic panels, Ground Source heat generation, Air Source heat generation and use of wind turbines Provide land as part of housing development/s for use by communities as allotments so that people can grow their own food Ensure that waste produced from building sites should have zero landfill requirement Provide communal space / areas where householders can deposit garden / green waste. Green waste produced by householders should then be collected directly by waste management companies free of charge.... thus taking collection of green waste out of the Council services Maximise use of brownfield sites including the conversion of commercial and retail buildings to</p>		
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		<p>residential I have already covered this in my Introduction comments Overall WDC and WDC Planning seem to have set the bar 'low' for developers when in fact the Plan should require that all developers should deliver buildings, structures, homes etc. that conform with the Design Guide contained in the High Weald (AONB Unit) Management Plan: Heathfield's major development on the Old Police Station site fails to make the most of a truly wonderful tract of land in the AONB with magnificent views. The homes built are of designs and materials which can be found on the fringes of any large town or city and while they are not 'ugly' they fail to conserve and enhance the AONB per the NPPF. Heathfield's Old Beehive Pub has been replaced with a number of large overbearing buildings again of a design which can be found in many out of town areas across the UK and while it is not 'ugly' it does not enhance a prominent position on a main approach into Heathfield. Cross In Hand's development at Dads Hill again fails to conserve and enhance the AONB with its high density unexceptional homes packed into a small site bounded by two busy roads.</p>		
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0	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	I would like to formally request that the StopVinesCorner group is made a Consultee to Wealden District Council and the Planning & Policies Department. Currently our group focuses mainly on the North East areas of Heathfield although we have links to all areas. I would be willing to work with others to form a Heathfield Neighbourhoods Association thus including communities and villages on the fringes such as Broad Oak, Cross In Hand, Punnetts Town.	From responding to this consultation we can confirm that you have been added to the Planning Policy consultation database.	No change.
0	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	Impacts of COVID-19 is driving even greater need for Local Green Space in Heathfield I therefore wish to make a formal request that the new WDC Local Plan includes the larger areas of Local Green Space as allowed my the NPPF. We are seeing a huge increase in numbers of people coming down Marklye Lane and using the footpath network which we support and applaud. Public Heath England and the World Health Organisation have emphasised frequently over the previous weeks and months that it is vital for people to access to Green Open Space both for physical exercise and for psychological good health. The foot traffic we are seeing by individuals and whole Families is strong proof that Heathfield Residents really value access to the countryside and are making increasing use of the wonderful green space on their doorstep. I therefore request that the proposal made by Green Open Space 4 Heathfield in 2018 - that the large field at the top / Vines Corner area of Marklye Lane be made Local Green Space for Heathfield - is granted. Also that a footpath route be re-instated across the top of the field to provide Heathfield Residents with a route from	These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. We will be updating our evidence base on open space and landscape as well as health and wellbeing as part of the Local Plan process. Consideration of Local Green Space designations will form part of the Local Plan process. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future development in the District. The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC shares information to assist in Neighbourhood Plan making. WDC also publishes its evidence base as this is completed. Including Local Green Space designations in the Local Plan will be	No change.

		<p>Marklye Wood to Marklye Lane thus re-instating the 'circuit' with Millennium Green and the wider footpath network. It should be noted that Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council let down Heathfield Residents in March 2020 by refusing to start up a Neighbourhood Plan which is the main route by which Local Green Space is nominated. We therefore need the WDC Local Plan to include a means by which Residents Associations and other local groups can make requests for Local Green Space.</p>	<p>a matter for consideration as part of the Local Plan process.</p>	
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0	Rother District Council - Tim Hickling	<p>Consultation on Wealden Draft Statement of Community Involvement Representations on behalf of Rother District Council Rother District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on Wealden District Councils draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which looks to update the last iteration of the SCI from 2015. As an adjoining authority, Wealdens SCI is an important document as it will set out the ways by which Rother District Council (RDC) will be engaged with and consulted on in respect to planning policy documents and planning applications that may have strategic cross-boundary significance. Section 1 of the Draft SCI identifies the reasons that have prompted Wealden to update their SCI, including the standard requirement for SCIs to be reviewed every 5 years; the a requirement for local authorities to set out their policies for giving advice or assistance on making and modifying neighbourhood development plans (NDP), or making neighbourhood development orders (NDO) and Community Right to Build Orders to grant planning permission• ; and to build on community engagement techniques using online resources and social media. The Draft SCI sets out different options for engagement under two categories; either as a statutory requirement governed by planning legislation and guidance, or as a potential additional method subject to resources. The different options are set out under these categories within a series of tables, with each table corresponding to a planning policy document and its stages of consultation through its production. Documents include Local Plan</p>	<p>The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures in accordance with the guidance. The Council will also be publishing an Engagement Strategy. This will provide further detail in relation to how we will consult our communities and partners.</p>	<p>Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.</p>
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		<p>production, CIL, Neighbourhood Planning and Development Management, etc. In doing so, the SCI is clear about how different forms of engagement will be used for different documents (including planning applications), as well as providing flexibility for the use of additional forms of consultation, subject to resourcing. RDC considers that to strengthen the framework for presenting the intended forms of consultation, WDC should consider whether there are ways to enable the SCI to be more locally specific and more detailed within these tables. Whilst the draft document does include local consultees in Appendix B, they do not form part of consultation methods that the tables set out and therefore whether different engagement and consultation strategies may be required for different types of consultees. As you will be aware, since Wealdens draft SCI was made public for consultation, the Government has produced an update to the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) in response to the Coronavirus Act 2020. These amendments have implications for how community engagement should take place in situations of lockdown and continued social distancing. Updated paragraph 077 of the PPG encourages local planning authorities to undertake an immediate review of their SCI and update policies contained within it that cannot be complied with due to current guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID 19). Updated paragraph 078 of the PPG advises that SCI policies that commit to face-to-face consultation events or providing physical documents for inspection, etc., should be updated where they are inconsistent with current</p>		
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		<p>coronavirus (COVID 19) guidance. It further suggests potential alternative online engagement methods to allow plan-making to progress. Addressing the impact of social distancing is limited to Paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6 of WDCs draft SCI. These paragraphs state that consultation will be affected by the ongoing Covid-19 situation and consequently certain forms of engagement, such as the making available of consultation documents for inspection at deposit points, will no longer be possible. RDC consider that the revised SCI should take the opportunity to be more detailed in its methods to address the PPG requirements, through stating how the Council will enable plan making to continue where only remote forms of engagement are possible. RDC would also like to take this opportunity to confirm to WDC that we are also in the process of updating our SCI to reflect the ways in which we will engage and consult on planning policy documents and planning applications in the near future. This will also support the intentions to undertake an enhanced period of early engagement on the Rother Local Plan Update and take account of recent changes to the PPG, in light of the Coronavirus Act 2020.</p>		
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0	Mr Sheldon Kenton	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter. I think there a number of areas where community involvement could be improved. I think the primary improvement would be in terms of clarity of intent. Currently, in order to navigate the maze of planning policy it is necessary to start with the NPPF and then try and figure out which of the various Core Plans, Local Plans, SHELAA's etc. even survive much less apply. Almost every application I have read of late seems to be mostly concerned with arguing that none of the councils policies apply as they are out of date. To the ordinary resident who typically only gets involved with planning when they want to extend their house or when they find themselves up against a planning application to build 100 homes next to them this is confusing and, be definition worrying. This also clearly puts the community at a great disadvantage to the developers and landowners whose resources and experience are clearly superior. Taking the most recent January 2019 SHELAA this was either a helpful exercise or a complete waste of council tax payers money. It would be helpful if it gave clarity to residents as to what landowners were seeking to develop and to what extent. It would be helpful if it then steered planning to the sites deemed Suitable and that these sites were accessed for development as housing needs dictate. Buyers of property in Wealden would then be able to make informed decisions about the house they are planning to buy and the intent of any landowner whose land surrounds or abuts it. Time will tell but given the fact that landowners and developers continue to submit outline applications for land deemed</p>	<p>The New Local Plan will consolidate all local policies and site allocations into a single document.</p> <p>The SHELAA is an evidence base document it is not a policy document. Its purpose is to inform plan making. Greater certainty will be provided when site allocations are designated in the New Local Plan.</p> <p>The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC shares information to assist in Neighbourhood Plan making. WDC also publishes its evidence base as this is completed.</p> <p>This is not possible under the present planning system and is beyond the powers of the Council to change. Only National Government to amend the system.</p> <p>We cannot force developers to attend Parish Council meetings. However, through our SCI we do encourage developers to engage with communities from an early stage.</p>	No change.
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		<p>unsuitable in 2019 its clear where the developers are placing their bets. I also think the issue and utility of Neighbourhood Plans needs clarity. They are either considered by WDC to be a useful addition to planning policy and execution or a complete waste of time. If they are considered useful then perhaps they should be considered mandatory with accompanying funding to boot. At the moment certain Wealden Councillors are actively advising against them. That can only be because they genuinely consider them to be useless (In which case they should be abandoned) or because they somehow conflict with the beliefs or agendas of WDC councillors (in which case the councillors need to remember what they are in post for). Either way it is not a sensible situation. Community involvement would also be improved if the community believed that the system were more democratic. Take a look at any application for any sort of major development and it will be loaded with works of fiction (otherwise called Design and Access Statements etc.). There will often be lots of resident replies decrying these reports as being loaded with incorrect statements and falsehoods. But to the average bystander it has to pose the question as to what carries more weight? The opinions of local residents or these glossy, long reports whose sole purpose of commissioning is to contrive to support whatever the landowner developers would like the Council to believe. Would it not be reasonable for all applications for major developments to be required to provide significant funding for local residents to access the same level of planning expertise that is</p>		
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		<p>available to the developers. This would achieve 2 things. In the first instance it would limit the more cynical opportunistic outline applications since it would inevitably increase the cost of these applications. On the other hand it would also provide the community with some of the firepower available to the landowners and enable their more outrageous and often untrue assertions about how wonderful a new estate would be for everyone when in fact the only person benefitting it the landowner/ developer. A side benefit of this is that it would even up the supply of these types of consultants. I'm sure the council is aware that some of these planning, ecology and transport consultants etc. will not even agree to work with private individuals or community groups to rebut a planning application for fear of falling foul of their usual paymasters, the developers and landowners. This is a clear sign that there is something wrong in the community aspects of planning and would be a helpful re-balancing. Whilst CV19 clearly hinders this, would the council consider making it mandatory for the landowner/ developer to physically appear at the Parish Council sessions where major applications are being discussed to support/ explain their plan. The anonymous ability for landowners to terrorise communities with large developments and not have to justify the claims made by their paid consultants again disadvantages the community. Applications should be pended until this occurs. Thank you.</p>		
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0	Broad Oak Residents Group - Miss Beryll Withers	In order to fully involve the community, which is the stated purpose of the consultation, and in order for this consultation to have democratic validity each of the residents of Broad Oak and Heathfield should have been made fully aware of this consultation in May 2020. I was advised about this consultation by my friend Sarah Bushnell. Not by Wealden Council. As council tax payers each and every resident of Broad Oak and Heathfield have a right to a say via this consultation as the outcome of any planning or community decisions will almost certainly have an impact upon the environment and quality of life of each of them. Wealden have the address of every council tax payer on record. Not everyone subscribes to Wealdens weekly updates as not everyone uses or has access to a pc or smartphone.	Paragraph 1.7 sets out the Council's rationale for consulting on the SCI. There is no requirement to consult on our SCI, however, we consider that consultation is important and we have therefore consulted widely on the SCI including writing / emailing all those on our consultation database. We also used other methods including a press release, contacted all those registered on My Alerts and the consultation was added to the Council's consultation register.	No change.
1	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	This feels like a generic Government report and lacks any specific Wealden information. For example, 1.6 this is a requirement to meet the Neighbourhood Planning Act of 2017. The characteristics of Wealden have some unique characteristics, and this is not reflected. As a general comment whilst processes are articulated through bullet points or flow diagrams, they do not make clear and transparent the criteria used for making decisions. This gives the impression that respondents to this consultation will be left not knowing whether their views have made any difference to the policy.	The SCI is focused on consultation and engagement rather than planning considerations. Criteria used for making decisions will be addressed and articulated through the Local Plan process, including through its evidence base and consultation. Following key consultation stages, the Council will produce consultation summary reports which will provide information on the key issues raised and will provide a response to these prior to finalising a planning document. This summary will be available on the Council's website. We have responded to every comment made on the Draft SCI	No change.

			including identifying where updates have been made.	
1	Mr Howard Michael Haffner	No commitment has been made to take the objections of Parish Councils into account, so in that respect asking for comment seems pointless and just paying lip service to "consultation."	<p>The SCI is focused on consultation and engagement rather than planning considerations. The SCI is focused on consultation and engagement rather than planning considerations.</p> <p>We engage with Town and Parish Councils and residents to let them know where development is likely to happen in the future through the local plan process. Following key consultation stages, the Council will produce consultation summary reports which will provide information on the key issues raised and will provide a response to these prior to finalising a planning document. This summary will be available on the Council's website. We have responded to every comment made on the Draft SCI including identifying where updates have been made.</p>	No change.

1	Barton Willmore - Mr David Maher	We are acting on behalf of Dandara Homes with regard to land at Spratsbrook Farm, Tunbridge Wells, hereafter referred to as the Site. The Site extends up to 30ha and is situated on the southern edge of the Town, within the administrative boundaries of both Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC - northern element) and Wealden District Council (WDC - southern element). The TWBC aspect of the Site forms an emerging allocation in the Draft TWBC Local Plan for development including, inter-alia, c. 270 dwellings as well as provision for a 7 form of entry secondary school. Dandara has previously promoted the Site (WDC element) to the withdrawn WDC Local Plan and it looks forward to working with the Council as part of the new Local Plan. Notwithstanding our Clients specific land interests, these representations have been prepared in objective terms and have regard to the guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).	This comment is outside the scope of the SCI consultation which considers how we will consult and engage in relation to the Council's function.	No change.
1	Southern Water - Ms Tamzyn Janes	Thank you for your email below, inviting Southern Water to comment on the Draft Statement Of Community Involvement. A I confirm Southern Water has no comments on the Draft Statement Of Community Involvement Consultation. We look forward to being kept informed of progress.	Noted.	No change.

1	Mid-Sussex District Council	Mid Sussex District Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement. We have no comments to make on the draft Statement of Community Involvement. We will continue to work with Wealden District Council in relation to strategic matters through the plan-making process and the duty to co-operate.	Noted.	No change.
1.1	Mr Neil Stone	I couldn't agree more, unfortunately most larger applications do absolutely nothing to enhance the area we live in and tend to have a negative impact on the environment and wildlife.	General comment in relation to planning applications. The SCI is focused on consultation and engagement rather than planning considerations. Impacts on the environment are a consideration in both planning applications and also as part of the Local Plan process.	No change.
1.1	Mr Colin Mackenzie	It is vital that the planning system remains a democratic process, with decisions steered by the local electorate rather than solely by government dictate	Agreed. The current system ensures that local politicians have a vital role to play in plan making and decision taking.	No change.

1.1	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	<p>I base my responses to this consultation on my own views and what I know about the views of people living in and around Heathfield. The WDC Planning System The WDC Planning system/policies/process should actively involve and consult with a body of Residents who will represent the views and needs of the communities in their town or village. This could be a Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association and should carry the same influence and weight with WDC as the Agents Panel (of developers and others with commercial interest in Heathfield). The way that the Planning System currently works / is operated is generally perceived negatively by Heathfield residents who see WDC as allowing and encouraging development in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which surrounds the town and on which many of the shops, farming and tourism based businesses depend. Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association would enable residents to feel more engaged and involved with planning and development for their town or village. Planning System Factors that are driving the Need for Neighbourhood Planning / Stakeholder Residents Groups: The new WDC Local Plan is almost certain to contain a larger number of homes than the recent (withdrawn) plan i.e.: greater than 14,228 and probably closer to 20,000 as outlined in the WDC Issues, Options and Recommendations document. Growth figures for Wealden are being driven by people coming into the District from elsewhere - i.e.: National Housing need is driving the numbers of homes</p>	<p>We agree that active involvement and engagement with our communities is vital on planning matters. The draft SCI sets out how we intend to do this.</p> <p>Town and Parish Councils are able to produce neighbourhood plans for their area with the support of local people. WDC supports neighbourhood planning and will provide advice and assistance to those groups seeking to shape future development in their areas. This is set out in Section 7 of the draft SCI.</p> <p>In relation to a residents Stakeholder group, the aim of such a group is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings.</p> <p>These issues will be addressed through the production of the Local Plan and we hope you will engage positively with us to shape future development in the District. The Council, through the consultation</p>	No change.
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		<p>required not actual commercially generated growth within Wealden. The Road Infrastructure improvements needed to support the levels of growth being planned by WDC are not being planned or provided. Additional services vital to our communities are not being planned or provided: Doctors, Dentists, Schools, Sewage, Buses etc. A new town (for Wealden) would be the logical and realistic way to provide large numbers of new homes but is not being planned or provided. Therefore the plan seems to be to shoe-horn as many homes into the existing communities as can be accommodated with no infrastructure improvements or additional services and regardless of the negative effects on the resident communities. Planning Applications: Wealden residents are heavily disadvantaged when a planning application is made for a development and therefore Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association should be involved at the earliest stage of a planning proposal and it should be a Consultee to WDC. This would give residents a more positive feeling that their views are being taken into account. Planning Application Process Factors that are driving the Need for Neighbourhood Neighbourhood Planning groups or a Residents Stakeholder group or Associations: Access to the WDC Planning Dept. and Case Officer the WDC Planning Process allows residents only to write or email their objections and telephone communications are actively discouraged per the standard paras in their letters. Speaking at Committee Meetings The WDC Planning Process allows residents</p>	<p>process on the Local Plan, will seek to engage and reach as wide a range of people as possible. There will be three formal rounds of public consultation during the Local Plan process (defining issues, draft stage, publication stage) undertaken in accordance with the methods set out in the SCI. These consultations will run for a minimum period of 6 weeks each. Events (taking account of any COVID -19 restrictions) in which the public can take part and engage in the process will be held in key locations in line with the SCI and stage in plan making.</p> <p>Housing need, infrastructure, community facilities and the location of future growth are matters that will be addressed through the production of the Local Plan and we hope you will engage positively with us to shape future development in the District.</p> <p>The Council meets its statutory duty in relation to consultation on planning applications.</p> <p>Written responses provide a clear audit of responses to a planning application and ensure that any</p>	
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		wishing to speak at Planning Committee meetings only 2 minutes or 3 minutes each e.g.: For a major application residents have a total of 9 minutes to speak. This manifestly unfairly advantages the applicant who may have had pre-planning advice and many hours of discussions and consultations with WDC Planning and other Consultees in order to smooth the way for their application to be approved.	responses / objections are properly recorded and addressed in the planning application decision report. Planning committee procedures and the right to speak is part of the Council's constitution and is not something that the SCI can consider.	
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1.1	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	We could not agree more and the way in which the local community are Involved and engaged in the Plan Making and Planning Decision making process for their area is crucial. This Statement of Community Involvement however relies heavily on electronic processes which do not encourage or enable a two way dialogue with the community and restrict accessed to some parts of the community.	The SCI sets out the consultation methods and at which stage of the plan making process they will be used in Table 1. This includes temporary consultation measures that apply due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government encouraged the use of social media tools and other platforms to communicate with communities in plan-making. This has now been emphasised further in an update to comply with COVID-19 guidance. The Council will keep under review its engagement processes and methods to ensure that consultation and engagement with our communities and stakeholders is effective whilst also ensuring the safety and well-being of all those involved.	No change.
1.1	Mr Michael Gadd	With the Household projections for England: 2018-based being released on the 29th June 2020 at 9.30am and the 2016 page now stating that the 2014 figures relating the household projection being archived (assume that means no longer valid) will WDC be revising it numbers?	Government guidance on 2014 household projections is not a matter relevant to the SCI consultation.	No change.

1.1	Broad Oak Residents Group - Miss Beryll Withers	<p>On behalf of the residents of Broad Oak I fully support the detailed and meaningful comments made by Sara Bushnell. I have lived here for 14 years and have been shocked by the amount of development being proposed on Greenfield sites almost on a daily basis inside the AONB and outside of the development boundary, despite 1 million plus confirmed Brownfield sites being available for development within the UK. WDC Planning system/policies/process actively fail to acknowledge and respond to the view of Residents despite the efforts made by local residents groups, such as Broad Oak Residents Group (BORG) to keep up to date with the planning applications and planning process. it is depressing to see over and over again the views of residents in local villages being disregarded in favour of the views of local developers, that do not represent the views and needs of the communities in the respective town or village. it is vital that we have a Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association and that this should carry the same influence and weight with WDC as the Agents Panel (of developers and others with commercial interest in Heathfield). Meetings with neighbourhood groups should be taking place just as frequently as those with the developers to ensure transparency and to discourage the negative opinion that most residents have about the planning process.. My person feeling is that the AONB environment is no longer valued in this part of Sussex, despite the excellent work done by the High Weald AONB Unit and the Management Plan, which includes input from</p>	<p>Comments are noted. However, this is partially outside the scope of the SCI consultation.</p> <p>The aim of a residents panel or alike is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings. We will seek to engage positively with our communities through the plan making process including on matters such as those relevant to the High Weald AONB. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future growth in the District.</p>	No change.
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		<p>several councils, including Wealden, with the intent of forming a bridge between the needs of the councils to comply with the governments endless requests to concrete over the fields and the need to preserve the valuable AONB areas of our county for future generations. this may sound clichéd but it is very true. I fully endorse the URGENT need for a Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association would enable residents to feel more engaged and involved with planning and development for their town or village. If neither the local Parish Council or Wealden DC support this then i fail to see how the residents are able to remain ahead of the curve and involved with making the decisions. Development of the land should be a positive thing for all concerned. Not just about profit going in one direction, usually to the land owner and the developer.</p>		
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1.1	MR Miles Dempsey	An effective local planning system must truly and solely reflect the needs of its community, not somewhere else irrelevant and miles away, as a prerequisite to developing stakeholder-driven strategy, vision, blueprints, assumptions, objectives and framing benefits seen to consistently deliver value for money, and if projects don't, then don't initiate them or kill them upon early periodic review. Also, appropriate delivery metrics that guide and confirm how stakeholders judge when success has been fully achieved, in communications to government and with local key stakeholders. This appears impossible as levers of outside control constrain Wealden and therefore is fatally flawed.	These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with our communities and partners on planning issues.	No change.
1.2	Mr Michael Gadd	Due to the unfortunate situation the UK and the World find themselves in and with so many people now working from home and with the good chance of a reasonable percentage remaining that way. Will there be a re-think on brown field allocations resulting in perhaps more commercial space not being needed.	This is a matter for the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. We will be updating our evidence base on the District's future need for commercial floor space, taking into account impact of COVID-19. We encourage you to comment and engage when the Council addresses these issues in the future.	No change.
1.2	Mr Michael Gadd	WDC have taken the trouble of setting up online distance planning meetings which is laudable, however the system seems outdated and difficult to handle. With many systems available and even central government using Zoom please move to a system (there are many) that truly gives your committee and the general public the democratic system they deserve. Families, Schools and Businesses are not finding it difficult so I do not	The Council was in a position where it was able to introduce virtual meetings as quick as possible to allow planning services to continue to function during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council views this as a positive step. Many systems have issues. We are using the system that is available to us.	No change.

		understand why WDC has.		
1.2	Mr Neil Stone	To have complete participation (or at least the opportunity to participate should we wish) everyone needs to be informed. The information needs to be circulated in a timely manner and a wide window of time in which comments should be submitted.	The SCI sets out how communities will be informed and also the timescales in which people will be consulted.	No change.
1.2	Mr Colin Mackenzie	Planning decisions reflect policy “ so it is vital that to engage with the electorate in establishing the principles for expansive development at the earliest stage (e.g. should residential expansion be accommodated in existing settlements with little additional supporting infrastructure or by new settlements that give easy access to employment and transport facilities)	We agree. We hope you will positively engage with us through the production of the Local Plan where the key strategic decisions on future growth are made.	No change.

1.2	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	<p>Representing bodies from all towns and villages in Wealden whether it be a Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association should be required to be formed and given Stakeholder status by WDC. Neighbourhood Planning should be made compulsory by WDC. However where there is no Neighbourhood Plan for a town or village then the WDC Planning system/policies/process should actively involve and consult with a body of Residents (Neighbourhood Planning group or a Residents Stakeholder group or Association) who will represent the views and needs of their local communities wrt to housing development. Study/s should be started up now of how and to what extent the effects of the COVID-19 (or a future pandemic) will affect the businesses in Wealden High Streets. Current thinking is that as well as the major stores like John Lewis, Debenhams, House of Fraser, Monsoon and many other stores contracting or going bankrupt there will be large numbers of smaller businesses such as we have in our Wealden High Streets which will never open again. All this needs to be taken into account there will be opportunities to re-shape town centres converting many commercial buildings to residential providing more open space for the remaining shops to have outside trading space creating pedestrian only areas. All of the above information needs to be shared with the Neighbourhood Planning group/s or a Residents Stakeholder group/s or Association/s so they can understand and be involved in the direction that is best for their village / town / communities.</p>	<p>In relation to a residents Stakeholder group, the aim of such a group is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings. The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC shares information to assist in Neighbourhood Plan making. WDC also publishes its evidence base as this is completed.</p>	No change.
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1.2	Mr Trevor Powis	The Covid 19 epidemic has caused many changes, some of which may be permanent for some, others which it would be desirable to maintain. Will WDC make a "Covid assessment" of ALL categories of the Wealden plan to assess if there are factors that could, should or DO in fact impact the planning policy and process.	Yes, Covid-19 will be considered in relation to evidence gathering and plan-making.	No change.
1.2	Mr Iain Merrett	What range of methods do Wealden propose for the local community to be able to fully participate and engage in the planning process. There should be a variety of options available, with good, clear communication from the Council.	The way we intend to consult is set out in the SCI.	No change.
1.2	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	We agree that the planning system is an important part of everyone's lives and affects all of us. That makes it all the more important to ensure: that a wide range of people are consulted; that methods are devised to promote involvement from those who don't normally participate in such things, whether because of different types of discrimination or accessibility issues such as not having access to ICT; and that the views of those consulted are taken seriously and taken into account. We are aware that it's highly unlikely to be possible to adopt all the views expressed by each person or group that responds, but it would be both possible and desirable for WDC to publish its reasons for rejecting views that have been expressed by a reasonably large number of respondents	We agree with these aims. The Council is currently drafting a new Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan, which will provide further detail as to how the Council intends to engage with its partners and communities. We aim to have genuine engagement and to reach as wide a range of people as possible. In plan making our reasons for choosing particular policy approaches will be explained. This information will be provided in our Sustainability Assessment for the Local Plan, which will be provided at the Regulation 18 and 19 consultation stages. We will also consider Local Plan consultation responses received from the community as well as feedback received through other consultation methods also. Please also see paragraph 3.9.	No change.

1.2	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	We could not agree more and the way in which the local community are Involved and engaged in the Plan Making and Planning Decision making process for their area is crucial. This Statement of Community Involvement however relies heavily on the community knowing about the Statement of Community Involvement and electronic processes which do not encourage or enable a two way dialogue with the community and restrict accessed to some parts of the community.	The SCI sets out the consultation methods and at which stage of the plan making process they will be used in Table 1. This includes temporary consultation measures that apply due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government encouraged the use of social media tools and other platforms to communicate with communities in plan-making. This has now been emphasised further in an update to comply with COVID-19 guidance. The Council will keep under review its engagement processes and methods to ensure that consultation and engagement with our communities and stakeholders is effective whilst also ensuring the safety and well-being of all those involved. The Statement of Community will be available on the Council's website. Hard copies can be provided if these are requested in line with paragraph 4.4.	No change.
1.2	Mrs D Harding	Agree with the statement, however having attended a number of South Wealden planning committees this sentiment is not borne out by the experience. The chair of the committee was dismissive and along with other members of the public attending it absolutely did not feel like she was listening at all to the residents views	Noted.	No change.
1.3	Mr Michael Gadd	As comment in 1.4	See response above re: residents' consultative committee	No change.

1.3	Mr Michael Gadd	As 1.4	See above.	No change.
1.3	MR Ian Turner	A large number of elderly people would want a public meeting , to include those people without internet access .	We intend to hold public exhibitions for the production of our New Local Plan (where COVID 19 restrictions allow). Where we cannot do this we will take other measures to ensure that those without internet access have an opportunity to engage with us.	No change.
1.3	Mrs Carol Baker	There needs to be a variety of ways that the community can get involved in the process and plenty of time for them to consider their views and convey them to the council. Some people will not have access to technology, maybe only have a mobile phone but not conversant with portals. There needs to be new ways of getting views from across the community, e.g. local meetings that could be announced through our free magazine.	We aim to reach as wide a range of people as possible. Whilst the government encourage us to use social media tools and other platforms we recognise that not everyone has access to the internet. We intend to hold public exhibitions and publicise these accordingly. We will also make hard copies of documents and consultation response forms available to ensure that those without internet access have an opportunity to engage with us.	No change.
1.3	Mr Colin Mackenzie	This is vital the electorate must be involved in establishing the fundamental constraints (such as the AONB) and opportunities (such as ease of access to employment and public transport). There must be resilience to housing targets imposed by central government without regard to the issues in our locality.	We agree. We hope you will positively engage with us through the production of the Local Plan where the key strategic decisions on future growth are made.	No change.

1.3	Mr Michael Gadd	Applicants or Applicants agents should attend any Parish Council Planning Meeting to explain to the local community the need for the development, if this does not happen then the application should be put aside until it does happen, again this would smooth the planning process and gain more involvement in a community process.	We cannot request for developers to attend Parish Council meetings. However, through our SCI we do encourage developers to engage with communities from an early stage.	No change.
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1.3	MR Miles Dempsey	<p>It is widely acknowledged, agreed, and evident that a fundamental conflict exists between central government strategic need postulations, and grounded requirements drawn solely from knowledgeable local community views. Our context is an area with a history, an agricultural, environmental, and lowered economic performance, dictating fundamental focus on climate change imperatives are fundamental and incorporated in all infrastructure operation assumptions. This is particularly pertinent when the local infrastructure is laughingly disconnected and underdeveloped, with no budget in sight or available to sufficiently improve it post Corona. It is building squalor, and expensive chaos for future generations, a period greater than the typical short-sighted five-year political term. So adding further back-slapping demands on a broken infrastructure foundation does not make any sense to any clear-sighted reasonable person. This is in direct conflict with a number of ill-thought-through, presumptive governmental ministerial directives for compliance, unaligned with any conceivable reality. It is not an overstatement that this is the logic of a madhouse. As demonstrated by the approach and recent comments by the Planning Inspector who rejected the Wealden Plan, it turned on matters having absolutely nothing to do with Wealdens Plan, but on issues outside of the authority, accountability and responsibility reasonable for Wealden to assume. This clearly confirms the intrinsic bias contained in favour of done do what you can see is right from consultation with your local stakeholders, just do what we tell you or</p>	<p>These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. We will be updating our evidence base on the District's future housing need in line with national guidelines/approaches but we will also take into account the local context of Wealden. This will include investigating all potential options for meeting housing need. We will also update our evidence base in regards to infrastructure requirements amongst other areas. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future growth in the District</p>	No change.
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		<p>we'll clip your central government discuss settlement. And the results of this is all around us to see - large as life and twice as ugly. Hardly reflecting a democratic way of approaching matters, a fig leaf construct for continuing short-term political shenanigans. This means the new Wealden planning deal requires:- A Vision that reflects something local people will recognise as well thought through, relevant and something they can support; Objectives that make sense to the ordinary person, otherwise everything else is nonsense; Conditions clearly identified and mitigations specified, allocated sufficient funding and affordable. To limit undue or unreasonable external interference, as loony demands from central government, business or others, along with constraining the bias evident from Planning Inspectors decisions, which stretch credulity to breaking point; Not to introduce duties and demands on Wealden, to be subservient to other local authorities lack of timeliness, thoughtfulness, diligence or preparedness; To solely take account of local social and economic factors in framing and setting demand. And in having the evidence to sustain pressure-tested facts of record. To not impose housing development targets which are clearly barmy, acknowledging demand comes mainly from outside Wealden. To have slow thinking, accurate, sufficient demand intelligence, and forecasts which are widely agreed as sound, reasonable and doable. Where precisely does this housing increase demand come from, on what public evidence is it based, and how precisely has the demand been segmented into demand categories, which are realistic in the agricultural</p>		
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		country area of East Sussex, that so many internationally value so highly?		
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1.4	Mr Michael Gadd	Will WDC look at putting in place a residents planning consultative committee similar to the Developer and Land Agents one this would truly be community involvement.	See response above.	No change.
1.4	MR Ian Turner	Please use plain language WDC has a reputation of using harder words to confuse people !!	Noted. We will aim to make all our documents easy to read, using plain English and avoiding jargon.	No change.
1.4	Mr John Bailey	In general terms the document deals with process and methods (1.7) lists and tick boxes. It lacks details of how the Council will work with partners and communities, and what its values are. No best practice ground rules demonstrating how early "meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbours" are given related to such issues as Inclusion, Continuity, Independent advice, Early Involvement, Presenting Options, Consensus, Transparent records, Authorisation of representatives, and feedback. Planning Policy consultation has been weak in the past without accessing all sections of the community and is likely to remain that way whilst all planning meetings are held in the South of the District with poor transport links from the North and day time meetings. For example preparations of Neighbourhood plans seem to be further advanced in the South of the District. Is this a support and consultation issue?	<p>The SCI provides details on the general methods that will be used to engage communities. The SCI meets all statutory requirements and also provides a brief consideration of other methods that will be utilised as relevant to the different stages in the plan process. The Council will seek to engage communities and partners early on in the plan process as well as through Local Plan production at its various stages as set out in the SCI.</p> <p>The Council will shortly be drafting an Engagement Plan. This will provide further detail in relation to how the Council will engage with its partners and communities.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Planning is a bottom up approach. The progress made is dependent on the desire of community groups/parish councils wishing to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. We provide support for all neighbourhood</p>	No change.

			<p>planning groups regardless of where they are located. How we help is set out in Section 7 of the SCI.</p>	
1.4	Mrs D Harding	<p>If the authority genuinely wants residents and public to engage then documents need to be more accessible and written more straightforwardly....accepting there will be a need for technical information...but most are impenetrable and far...far too long...if an equality impact assessment was undertaken it would be clear that those with neuro diverse conditions (20% of population according to British Dyslexic Society) haven't€™t got a proper way to engage. There should be opportunities for the public to</p>	<p>We agree and will aim to make all our documents easy to read, using plain English and avoiding jargon.</p> <p>Through our SCI we do encourage developers to engage with communities from an early stage. In addition, the case officer for major applications can provide support to residents on how the development</p>	No change.

		have workshops with planners on major applications so that people can properly understand the process and content	may affect them.	
1.5	Mr Michael Gadd	Will WDC implement a residents committee similar to the Developer and Land Agent one that currently takes place the Wealden would then be a truly a community minded organisation.	The aim of such a group is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings.	No change.
1.5	Mr Howard Michael Haffner	Insufficient regard is being given to Sustainability Assessments particularly with regard to infrastructure. In the past no pre-conditions on infrastructure have been made before major housing developments have been passed.	These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. In developing the Local Plan, a Sustainability Appraisal will be carried out at each stage of the process to ensure that the most sustainable strategy / policy is being taken forward.	No change.

1.6	Mr Michael Gadd	Neighbourhood Plans should be compulsory and would enhance local community involvement, they should also be centrally funded with say Â£100k cap. I think in the long run this would make the District level planning much less controversial.	The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC shares information to assist in Neighbourhood Plan making. WDC also publishes its evidence base as this is completed.	No change.
1.6	Mrs D Harding	Fine to explain how the system works....more relevant to provide an opportunity to engage with system...please see previous comment	See above.	No change.
1.7	Mr Michael Gadd	As comment in 1.4	See response above re: residents' consultative committee.	No change.
1.7	Mr Michael Gadd	as 1.4	See response above re: residents' consultative committee.	No change.
1.7	Mr Colin Mackenzie	There is a fundamental difference between planning policy and the decision making process (which devolved from it) such a statement is essential in defining how the Council will engage with its electorate in shaping future planning policy and, more essentially, the weight that will be placed on the response to such consultation.	We agree. That is why we have chosen to consult you on this draft SCI even though this is not legislatively required.	No change.

1.7	Mr John Petley	While, like many others, I am sure, I welcome the decision to consult, I hope that this will not just be a mere formality with our concerned then being totally ignored. From feedback I have picked up, trust in WDC to represent the real interests of those who live here is very low. In particular, there is much disappointment that unlike some other councils, no attempt was made to contest the rejection of the earlier Wealden Plan, which was bad enough but probably the least bad you could get away with. With the High Weald AONB in particular, we are blessed with a particularly beautiful area of countryside - the best preserved mediaeval landscape in Europe, so I read. Will Wealden be good stewards of this landscape? The verdict is still out.	We note that the decision to consult is welcomed. We will seek to engage positively with our communities through the plan making process including on matters such as those relevant to the High Weald AONB. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future growth in the District.	No change.
1.7	Mr Michael Gadd	No formal Requirement - this is exactly why local people feel ignored. WDC in giving residents this opportunity should also be pushing central government to put it into primary legislation. WDC should also be lobbying Central Government to use all latest housing projection instead of outdated one's (2014) which are currently used. WDC should also be pushing for tougher powers to get developments with permission built out.	This section explains that despite there being no formal legislative requirement to consult on the SCI we have decided to do so anyway. It's an example of the Council asking your views rather than not providing this opportunity at all. Government guidance on 2014 household projections is not a matter relevant to the SCI consultation.	No change.
1.7	Mr Trevor Powis	Should the Council at this stage not automatically draw up a consultative body containing groups such as Parish councils, Chambers of Commerce, locally established groups of suitable standing (e.g. Hailsham Forward) and groups representing key interest areas (e.g. environment groups, Hailsham Active)	This section sets out the Council's rationale for consulting on the SCI. There is no requirement to consult on our SCI, however, we consider that consultation is important and we have therefore consulted widely on the SCI including all those on our consultation database. This includes the groups	No change.

			mentioned in the response.	
1.7	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	Given the inspectors comments on the Duty to Cooperate is key that Wealden fully involve all parties in the development of the new plan. A SCI has to be reviewed every 5 years and so WDC are duty bound to do this. However, consulting during the present health pandemic has put addition pressure on Town and Parish Councils who have seen an increase in workload through supporting their residents. Furthermore, it does not take into account the updated guidance via the Planning Practice Guide, from the Government for dealing with planning through the pandemic.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures. The Government Guidance is clear in that progress on plan making should continue despite the impacts of coronavirus. The Guidance is also clear that local authorities should immediately review and update their SCIs to account for the situation in relation to temporary arrangements.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
1.8	Mr Michael Gadd	As 1.4	See above.	No change.
1.8	Mr Michael Gadd	as 1.4	See above.	No change.
1.8	Mr Michael Gadd	A lot has changed in since the last SCI not least COVID 19 which will change the way a lot of people work, with numbers working from home set to increase and the number of businesses that have found efficiencies on reduced staffing levels with have a major impact on new development in the area. Also it is likely that tourism and education tourism will be reduces for white a while into the future so releasing more local people into the jobs market. On the plus side we will need more local produce and more local land	We will be collecting information and evidence to help inform policy approaches in Wealden. Assessing the impact of COVID 19 will be incorporated into these studies.	No change.

		to produce it.		
1.8	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	Throughout this document WDC need to consider how they will consult with residents and other bodies in a way that is appropriate for the needs of the communities. For example some older members of the community will not be able to access consultation that are on line and during social distancing there will be other accessibility to be considered. It is likely that movements and face to face meetings we will be constrained for some time which should not mean that the democratic process is compromised. This does not preclude the use of social media but WDC should ensure that all areas of communities are reached not just those using social media. WDC does not set out how and what they will make available for public consultation.	The SCI sets out the consultation methods and at which stage of the plan making process they will be used in Table 1. This includes temporary consultation measures that apply due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government encouraged the use of social media tools and other platforms to communicate with communities in plan-making. This has now been emphasised further in an update to comply with COVID-19 guidance . The Council will keep under review its engagement processes and methods to ensure that consultation and engagement with our communities and stakeholders is effective whilst also ensuring the safety and well-being of all those involved.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance. Temporary consultation measures have been included.
1.8	Mrs D Harding	I refer you to my comment in section 1.4	See above.	No change.

1.9	Mr Trevor Powis	It's very important that WDC doesn't introduce technology to the point where it excludes people who can't or don't use technology. Also I believe the public should always have the right to speak directly to the council.	<p>We agree. We have provided a range of different consultation methods within the SCI. Certain methods rely on technology and others don't such as posters and leaflets. We aim to reach as wide a range of people as possible. Whilst the government encourage us to use social media tools and other platforms we recognise that not everyone has access to the internet. We intend to hold public exhibitions and publicise these accordingly. We will also make hard copies of documents and consultation response forms available to ensure that those without internet access have an opportunity to engage with us.</p> <p>If temporary restrictions relating to COVID-19 apply then we will consider ways in which we can ensure those without internet can engage in the process.</p>	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
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1.12	Mrs Carol Baker	<p>Please take the following into consideration :- Give consideration to any brown field sites that may become available given that a number of companies will not survive the current crisis, it would be sad to see unused sites with closed factories/buildings whilst developers are squeezing more houses into green field sites that are our only area for walks and recreation, e.g. Mallard Drive. When there are consultation meetings, ensure that if the planning application drags on, that another meetings is held for the affected community before you say yes. Again Mallard Drive which went on for about 7 years Consider the capacity of local schools, doctors surgeries, dentists and available employment before saying yes to yet more house building. If/when Persimmon build in Mallard Drive, the pupils will initially have to travel to other schools, not Harlands as it is so popular. Then if they do get a place they may displace someone from the Harlands' estate, meaning parents may have one child at one school and one at another. Please, if you know that you are going to approve more applications as part of the new 5 year plan, please liaise with ESCC more improved road networks and improvements to the access into the High Street, from both north and south. If, per the Planning Inspectorates comments, you have to support Eastbourne with more housing, this is likely to put more pressure on the A22. Please ensure improvements are made before Uckfield becomes even more congested.</p>	<p>Comment in relation to future growth. Such matters are addressed through individual planning applications and will also be addressed through the production of the Local Plan. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future development in the District.</p>	No change.
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1.13	MR Ian Turner	Need more public consultation , more public meetings !!	We intend to engage with our communities as provided in the SCI. This includes public meetings at certain stages for the production of our New Local Plan (where COVID 19 restrictions allow). Where we cannot do this we will use online methods whilst also ensuring that those without internet access have an opportunity to engage with us.	No change.
2	Mr Michael Gadd	The failed local plan of January 2019 was nearly 10000 pages with all notes etc. a lot of the document contained the same text and was vey repetitive, could the this not be addressed by using a refer to comment linked to the txt in a glossary? Also will you be pushing central government to allow the most current OAN numbers instead of the 2014 data, with 2016 showing lower need if that trend continues the 2018 figure could be even lower.	We agree that the New Local Plan should be concise, easy to read, use plain English and avoid jargon. We will seek to achieve this in the New Local Plan. Government guidance on 2014 household projections is not a matter relevant to the SCI consultation.	No change.

2.1	Mr John Bailey	<p>It is easy to set out policy statements, however these should be supported by advice statements related to a strategy for implementation. Again use of the words "planning policies are delivering their objectives" needs to clearly define the strategy and resources need for implementation. If these are consulted on they would be more likely achieved. For example A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) must be undertaken as part of the Local Plan process. The purpose of the SA is to assess the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan. Will this be done by a Scoping Report, based on consultation and transparent documented research which will identify the key sustainability issues for the area? Where possible "material considerations" should be identified and explained at the plan stage particularly if it is felt they have greater weight than what's in the adopted document.</p>	<p>Implementation or 'delivery' is a key aspect that Wealden will be tested on in any forthcoming Local Plan examination. We will develop evidence to show that the vision, strategy and policies in the New Local Plan can be delivered over the plan period.</p> <p>When adopted the policies of the New Local Plan will be monitored for their effectiveness and this will be reported on an annual basis through the Authorities Monitoring Report.</p> <p>An SA/SEA is a legal requirement of plan making. The Council will be consulting on its SA Scoping Report as part of the plan making process.</p> <p>The consideration of "material Considerations" is a matter for the planning application stage. In law, planning decisions must be made in accordance with the Development Plan (Local Plan) unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p>	No change.
2.1	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	<p>2.10 The Authority Monitoring report is an important document for monitoring the LDS and determining whether the adopted policies are delivering their objectives. It would therefore seem reasonable that this is produced more than once a year and that the information contained is newer than 9 months old at publication.</p>	<p>This comment is outside the scope of this consultation. However, the Council is only required by law to publish this document on an annual basis.</p>	No change.

2.1	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	2.10 The Authority Monitoring Report explaining reasons for delay, but how necessary is this and one would think producing this report may not be essential and may add to further delay?	Producing the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is a statutory requirement.	No change.
2.1	Mr Darren Manuel	I feel that AONBs should be shown in the map to ensure clarity and visibility for future reference	The purpose of Figure 1 is to show the area of Wealden District to which this SCI relates (South Downs have their own SCI). It does not set out planning constraints. Maps detailing planning constraints are provided in the Council's Adopted Local Plan.	No change.
2.3	Peter Gunner	In the current circumstances Development Plans should be prepared with considerable built in flexibility allowing for prompt appropriate responses to regional and local variability as well as to national demands. We need to be able to respond brightly to unfolding situations. ... rather than relying on the comfortable 'safety' of apparent stability 'set in stone'. Wordy rigidity may be more straightforward to administer and argue for those trained to it, but clarity, tempered with care, is easier for the ordinary person, guided by common sense and vision, to understand. Plans formulated using these principles and allowing all sorts of variety, can make for a much better, fairer place to live and work for everyone, coupled with greater resilience against the unexpected. Such flexibility may lead to the bringing forward of plans which do not fit the current mould, but that do meet the needs of place and people, and make us more ready for the challenges ahead.	These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. However, we agree that the New Local Plan should be locally specific, concise and easy to read.	No change.

2.5	Peter Gunner	Yes. The built and natural environment and our balanced sustainable care of them are crucial to the whole of living and encouraging life, both wild and 'tame'. Individuals, groups and authorities should tread lightly but boldly in the sensitive matter of integrating the new with existing communities, enhancing rather than degrading the lives and livelihoods of all and being as carefully ready as we can be for whatever the next challenge may be	These matters are for addressing through the Local Plan process rather than the SCI, which is limited to how we intend to engage with people on planning issues. We will be updating our evidence base on the districts built and natural environment. We hope you will positively engage with us through the production of the Local Plan where the key strategic decisions on future growth are made	No change.
2.6	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	The Localism Act 2011 places a duty (on WDC) that they will work and co-operate with other prescribed bodies which include Residents Associations and should also include Neighbourhood Planning group/s or a Residents Stakeholder group/s or Association/s.	These comments are outside the scope of the SCI which is focused on consultation and engagement in the planning system. The Council will engage on local plan matters through local plan consultations. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future planning policies, as relevant, on such matters.	No change.
2.6	Mrs Carol Baker	The Mallard Drive development would not have been approved if the application had been submitted now based on the Ancient Woodland and wildlife in close proximity and yet because it was submitted a number of years ago it was allowed to proceed. Please take into account how approved developments impact on the biodiversity issues and climate. We have just come out of the worse three months of rain for many a year and yet we continue to allow building on or close to flood plains. It is the communities that have to live with the resultant flooding. Speaking from experience.	The SCI is focused on consultation and engagement rather than planning considerations. Impacts on the environment and flood risk are a consideration in both planning applications and also as part of the Local Plan process. We hope you will engage and support us in bringing forward such policies as we address these issues in the new Local Plan.	No change.

2.6	Mr Jonathan Walker	The requirement to engage with the community should include the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups for Parishes that are preparing Neighbourhood Plans.	We agree and we have added Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups to Appendix B	Appendix B updated to include Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups.
2.6	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	Parish and Town Councils should be actively involved but also residents groups and Neighbourhood Plan Steering groups. should be consulted throughout the process. Village Concerns are requesting to be part of the consultation process.	Parish and Town Councils as well as residents Groups and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups will be actively involved in the Local Plan Process. This is set out in the SCI. Further detail will be provided in the Council's Engagement Strategy.	No change.

2.6	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	<p>Protection for the Farming Communities: WDC should also foster a closer relationship with landowners and farmers across Wealden. The new WDC Local Plan should recognise that the majority of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is in private ownership and much of it is farmed for raising cattle and sheep with orchards and soft fruit growing which make a very significant commercial contribution to the Wealden District in terms of trade and employment. The WDC Local Plan should include new or Saved Policies supporting and protecting Farmers from the impacts of large scale housing development/s currently I am not aware of their being any 'Farming Policies'. Additionally it seems to me that the Planning Committees may need education about the needs of Farming communities and the impacts that a large housing development can have on local Farmers whose land may become directly abutted by housing and / or impacted poor road provisions and road junction design. At least one member of the Farming Community in each Ward should be nominated as 'Consultee' for Planning Application/s and there should be a Farming Consultee for the County. Wealden's Role in UK Food Production: The WDC Local Plan should recognise that the need for use of the High Weald land for food production cannot be underestimated. The impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic show that the UK needs to produce more food for home consumption. This puts an even greater emphasis on the need to minimise use of 'green fields' for housing or other development... because every housing estate or</p>	<p>We are keen to engage with farming communities as an important sector of the Wealden economy. We have many farming contacts on our consultation database of over 4500 people and organisations. Rural planning is a policy area that intend focus on in the Local Plan production.</p>	No change.
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		<p>commercial / retail development built on the AONB and other 'green fields' takes away from the land that we would otherwise have available for food production. Protection of Ancient Woodlands: The WDC Local Plan should include new or Saved Policies protecting the Ancient Woodlands which are scattered across the High Weald and perform a major role in stabilising land, enhancing the AONB and hosting wildlife. The standard buffer of 15 metres / less than 50 feet between the boundary of new housing and Ancient Woodland is woefully inadequate. Human habitation near to AW leads to intrusions into the woodland and valued landscapes with risks of damage, pollution and tipping and burning being typically underestimated and set aside in favour of development. Protection of Natural Assets: Trees, Shaw's and Hedgerows: The new WDC Local Plan should include new or Saved Policies protecting individual or groups of trees, shaws and historic or ancient hedgerows. WDC Planning have shown themselves to be extremely reluctant to protect these natural assets (in Heathfield which I imagine is their District wide approach) and thus are leaving them open to felling or grubbing up by landowners who may wish to clear land of development 'obstacles'. The assertions by WDC Planning that a TPO could be issued in emergency situations is unrealistic and is a mechanism for 'doing nothing' because in the time it takes for a Planning Officer to get to the site concerned the tree can have been felled.</p>		
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2.7	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	We are informed that much of the evidence base for the 2019 Wealden Local Plan Submission will be carried forward to enable the current work on the new Local Plan. It would be useful for anyone involved in Planning Applications to know which documents are still "live".	The Council's evidence base including that undertaken for the withdrawn Wealden Local Plan can be found on the Council's website. We will be updating our evidence base as part of the production of the Local Plan and publishing this as evidence base documents are completed.	No change.
2.7	Mr Jonathan Walker	Many of the documents and evidence base from the 2019 Submission Wealden Local Plan will still be valid and be taken forward when preparing the new Wealden Local Plan. Such documents and evidence should be identified now and a list of such documents published now as they are important for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and for use in relation to current planning applications.	The Council's evidence base including that undertaken for the withdrawn Wealden Local Plan can be found on the Council's website. We will be updating our evidence base as part of the production of the Local Plan and publishing this as evidence base documents are completed. The Council will liaise with Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups to advise on evidence base documents in relation to their relevance.	No change.
2.7	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	Re 2.7 Saved policies in the Wealden District Local Plan were from 1998 and these are 22 years old and I am not sure if these have been updated or reviewed since.	The Saved Policies from the 1998 Local Plan, together with the adopted Core Strategy (2013) and the NPPF (2019) form the current development plan for the district. The new Local Plan will supersede these once adopted. The policies in the Wealden Local Plan were saved by approval of the Secretary of State under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on 27th September 2007.	No change.

2.8	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	The same legislation requires WDC to have regard to "any other material consideration". The climate crisis, the Climate Change Act 2008 (amended last year to include the target date of 2050 for carbon neutrality), the Council's climate emergency resolution and plan and the report from AECOM that the Council commissioned to assist with the design and implementation of its plan are all plainly material considerations and should therefore have been listed here. The AECOM report made it clear that all future development in Wealden has to be carbon neutral for there to be any prospect of the Council achieving its own 2050 target for Wealden, and that imperative should have been put into practice from last December, when the report was published.	This section deals with the weight Neighbourhood Plans that have passed examination but not yet referendum should have in planning decision making in accordance with legislation. We agree that climate change is of vital importance. This is a policy area that will be taken forward as part of the new Local Plan.	No change.
2.9	Mr Colin Mackenzie	It is hoped that all consultees will be advised when the LDS is uploaded onto the Councils web site	We are not intending to contact our consultee database about the publication of the LDS. It is not a document we consult on. The LDS will be publically available on our website should it be approved at Full Council on 22nd July 2020.	No change.
2.9	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	WDC should consult formally with representatives from all towns and villages in Wealden and actively notify them when and where documents are available for consideration by and discussion with the communities. The Localism Act 2011 places a duty (on WDC) that they will work and co-operate with other prescribed bodies ^{€™} which include Residents Associations.	See above.	No change.

2.9	Mrs Carol Baker	How is this being communicated to the communities so that the majority of people have an opportunity to comment.	The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out what documents will form part of the Development Plan. It also sets out our timetable for when we will produce new Development Plan Documents, most notably the Local Plan. We do not consult on the LDS but it is publically available on our website.	No change.
2.9	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	2.9 highlights that the LDS will be published on its website when available, but we contend that this is not a satisfactory way of ensuring that all bodies know this is available short of checking the website on a daily basis, which is impractical. Given the importance of the Local Plan project and the feedback from the examiner it would seem appropriate to have a shared timetable that is updated weekly sent to all consultees. It is notoriously difficult to find documents on the Wealden website. Ease of access should be paramount	The LDS will be considered at Full Council on 22nd July 2020 and will be published on the Council's website on approval. The LDS will be updated every three years or as appropriate should there be a change to the timetable for progressing Development Plan Documents.	No change.
2.9	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	Re 2.9 I note WDC is currently updating the Local Development Scheme which sets out the Councils plan making a timetable for the production of planning policy. Wondering how long this updating takes and presume the Local Development Scheme is available on the website.	The LDS will be considered at Full Council on 22 nd July 2020 and will be published on the Council's website on approval.	No change.

2.9	MR Miles Dempsey	I believe this consultation is timely, reflecting the good-hearted acknowledgement that something has to change and now is that right time to make a step-change in efficiency and effectiveness. The Localism Act 2011 places a duty (on WDC) that they will work and co-operate with "other prescribed bodies"™ which include Residents Associations. WDC should not even consider making an LDS in isolation without the involvement and buy-in of local residents stakeholders "WDC must consult formally with representatives from all towns and villages in Wealden, recognising the different drivers and realities of each, and actively notify them when and where documents are available for consideration and discussion with the communities and their feedback.	Thank you for your comment which is welcomed. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production of the development plan documents. It states what the Council will do, and when, and identifies opportunities for public involvement in the preparation of these documents. Development considerations and drivers are for addressing through the Local Plan process. We hope you will positively engage with us through the production of the Local Plan.	No change.
3	Mr Michael Gadd	Will WDC look at putting in place a residents planning consultative committee similar to the Developer and Land Agents one this would truly be community involvement.	The aim of such a group is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings.	No change.

3	Crowborough Town Council - Ms Caroline Miles	It is vital that Crowborough Town Council remains a statutory consultee as part of the consultation process with regards Crowborough planning applications and that the Council is fully consulted in the drafting and creation of a new local plan.	The Council will consult with all Parish and Town Councils as part of the development of the new Local Plan and on planning applications as appropriate.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
3	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	This section again sets out the duties from the statutory requirements but lacks detail on how WDC will ensure that they reach the bodies as set out in the Localism Act 2011. This has not been updated to included the recent changes as a result of the health emergency	The Council will engage positively with its partners during the Local Plan process and how we meet our Duty to Cooperate will be set out transparently in Statements of Common Ground that will set out how we have addressed strategic cross boundary issues. These will be made available when finalised at certain stages of the plan making process. The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures in accordance with the guidance. The Council will also be publishing an Engagement Strategy. This will provide further detail in relation to how we will consult our communities and partners.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.

3	Horam Parish Council - Miss Sally Blades	Further to your e-mail dated 1st May 2020 regarding the above Horam Parish Council at their full Council meeting on 10th June 2020 considered the matter and RESOLVED that I write to the Head of Planning and Environmental Services and Senior Management to say that this is an evolving process and that it is vital that Horam Parish Council is kept involved so they know what is going on.	The Council will consult with all Parish and Town Councils as part of the development of the new Local Plan and on planning applications as appropriate.	No change.
3	Mr Jonathan Walker	This section seems to be concentrated on cooperation with other planning authorities and cross administrative boundaries. However, it is headed Who the Council will involve in plan making€• On this basis we feel that you should involve Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups for parishes that are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.	The Duty to Cooperate partners and other prescribed bodies are provided in Appendix A of the SCI. This list is prescribed in legislation. Both Parish and Town Councils are listed in Appendix B under specific Consultation Bodies. In accordance with Planning Practice Guidance the Council will liaise regularly with Neighbourhood Plan Steering groups and will work collaboratively to ensure that complimentary policies are produced. If you have not already, please contact the planning policy team at planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk to ensure we have the Steering Groups preferred contact details. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups fall under the General Consultation Bodies.	Updated Appendix B to include Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups under General Consultation Bodies and other interested groups.

3	Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council - Mr Patrick Coffey	<p>1.. Consult: As widely as possible and in a suitable and timely matter Make sure people are well consulted in the process There should be varied methods, such as media, postal drops and a public exhibition. 2. Contact: Parish/Town Councils to recommend who to consult as there may be local groups that would be beneficial that are not on WDC's files. 3. AONB: WDC do not show the AONB on their plans; this should be included. 4. Most important part is to communicate with everyone The best previous response was a postal drop which received the best feedback. This should be duplicated and a simplified summary survey should be used. This would give a chance for all age ranges to be consulted.</p>	<p>1. The SCI sets out varied consultation methods. These will be addressed further in an Engagement Strategy. The minimum consultation for Local Plans will be a six week period.</p> <p>2. Anyone can sign up to be notified about our consultations. We have a large database of groups we consult with on planning policy issues. If there are groups you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us on planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk and we will update our records.</p> <p>3. WDC shows the AONBs on plans where this is relevant. The plan shown in the SCI is to identify the planning north and south areas.</p> <p>4. We note the positive comment in relation to the leaflet method. The details as to how we consult moving forward will be a Council decision including a consideration of costs and the delivery of effective engagement. This will be addressed further in the Engagement Strategy. It must be noted however, that Government Guidance is suggesting for consultation to take more electronic forms. We will consider this also.</p>	No change.
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3	Highways England - Ms Elizabeth Cleaver	<p>Thank you for inviting Highways England to comment on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement Highways England 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, Highways England 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 the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in particular the A27, A259 and A21 trunk roads. Having examined the Draft Statement of Community Involvement, we are content that Highways England will continue to be consulted on Development Plan documents and receive information on publicised planning permission applications that will have an impact on the SRN as per statutory requirements. Please could you amend the references in Appendices A and B from The Highways Agency to Highways England We note that section 8.4 encourages potential planning permission applicants to seek pre-application advice from your Council. Highways England also encourages early engagement for proposed development of any scale located adjacent to the SRN, or potentially impacting upon the operation of the SRN, and we do not charge for pre-application consultations. Please could you consider including this within</p>	Noted.	Update 'Highways Agency' to 'Highway's England in Appendix A and B.
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		your pre-application advice? Thank you again for consulting with Highways England. We look forward to future consultation via our inbox:		
3	High Weald AONB - Ms Claire Tester	I could not find any reference to the High Weald AONB Unit in any of the appendices listing which bodies you would consult on planning matters. Whilst current arrangements are working well at the moment it would be better if this was formalised in some way, either as part of the SCI or in a separate agreed protocol between Wealden District Council and the Unit.	The High Weald AONB is a Countryside body and is included in Appendix B under General Consultation Bodies and other interested groups.	No change.

3	Surrey County Council - Mr James Greene	The council is not listed as a Local Authority Duty to Cooperate Partner in Appendix A of the SCI document. As the highways and education authority for Surrey, we believe that we should be included as a Local Authority Duty to Cooperate Partner as future development proposed by Wealden could well have cross-boundary impacts in Surrey. We have previously been concerned with impacts on the A22/264 junction at Felbridge, on the county boundary, with congestion at this junction already causing considerable delays in Surrey.	We agree. You have been added to our list of Duty to Cooperate Bodies in Appendix A.	Surrey CC has been added to the Duty to Cooperate bodies at Appendix A.
3	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	Not all of the general consultation bodies included in the second bullet point in paragraph 2.3 are included in the General Consultation Bodies and other interested groups shown in the second column in Appendix B.	We have updated Appendix B to correspond with the text at 3.4.	Update Appendix B to include general consultation bodies included under paragraph 3.4.
3	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	The second column of Appendix B - General Consultation Bodies and other interested groups - does not list all of the bodies included in the second bullet point of paragraph 3.4. These should be only used as should reference to paragraph 3.4 for cross checking purposes.	See above	See above.
3	Mr Michael Gadd	I would like to formally request that the StopVinesCorner(Green Spaces For Heathfield) group is added to the "General Consultation Bodies and other interested groups" section. Currently our group focuses mainly on the North East areas of Heathfield although we have links to all areas. I would be willing to work with others to form a Heathfield Neighbourhoods Association	Appendix B sets out general consultation bodies. Stop Vines Corner is considered under this category. Anyone can sign up to be notified about our consultations. We have a large database of groups we consult with on planning policy issues. It is not possible to list all groups	No change.

		thus including communities and villages on the fringes such as Broad Oak, Cross In Hand, Punnetts Town.	specifically at Appendix B. Please contact us at planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk with your preferred contact details and we will update our records if required.	
3	Mr Michael Gadd	I believe Parish Councils should be included in the "Other prescribed bodies" so they can reflect the residents that do not have a Neighbourhood Plan.	The Duty to Cooperate partners and other prescribed bodies are provided in Appendix A of the SCI. This list is prescribed in legislation. Both Parish and Town Councils are listed in Appendix B under specific Consultation Bodies.	No change.
3.1	MR Ian Turner	More public meetings that are advertised in the local press!!	See previous above.	No change.
3.1	Mr Ray Beer	It is very important to have public meetings between the Planners and the residents to ascertain exactly what is needed for the populace at large.	The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council will also consult with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings.	No change.
3.1	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	The Localism Act 2011 places a duty (on WDC) that they will work and co-operate with other prescribed bodies which include Residents Associations.	See above.	No change.
3.1	Mr Michael Gadd	Will WDC look at putting in place a residents planning consultative committee similar to the Developer and Land Agents one this would truly be community involvement.	See above	No change.

3.1	Mrs Carol Baker	Lots more options for a greater percentage of residents to get involved and have their say. Get creative to access views of many more people	We intend to and we are currently considering ways we can engage with our communities and partners during the Local Plan process. We will be publishing an Engagement Plan in the coming months.	No change.
3.1	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	Other prescribed bodies should include residents groups.	The Duty to Cooperate partners and other prescribed bodies are provided in Appendix A of the SCI. This list is prescribed in legislation. Both Parish and Town Councils are listed in Appendix B under specific Consultation Bodies. Residents Groups are listed under Appendix B. If there are groups you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us on planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk and we will update our records.	No change.
3.1	Mrs Debra Green	WDC should look at putting in place a Residents' Planning Committee similar to the ones Developer and Land Agents have. At the moment this is a truly one-sided affair and, after all, residents pay the Council Tax. This would ensure community involvement, and provide a platform for residents to have their ideas noted.	The aim of such a group is currently achieved through other means. The Council has a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for planning and also holds Parish Panel meetings. As identified in the SCI the Council also consults with communities through planning bulletins, my alerts, Local Plan workshops / exhibitions with residents, planning application consultations, planning committee, parish meetings.	No change.

3.1	Broad Oak Residents Group - Miss Beryll Withers	Transparency is essential to create more understanding between the Planning departments, the parish council and the residents. Public meetings must be encouraged and a regular event to discuss planning and any other issues that need to be addressed in the village or town. one meeting a year is just not sufficient to cover the issues as development plans are generated so frequently. It must be the responsibility of the council to keep all residents advised about proposals for developments that will potentially have a negative impact on the lives of residents as our already frail infrastructure is inevitably going to take the brunt of the impact of influxes of new residents.	We will keep residents advised in accordance with the methods provided in our SCI. This includes informing residents in relation to planning applications and also Local Plan Documents. Further information will be provided in our Local Plan Engagement Strategy.	No change.
3.1	MR Miles Dempsey	The purpose and expectation are that full notice will be taken of the Localism Act 2011, placing a duty (on WDC) to work and co-operate with "other prescribed bodies"™ which include Residents Associations.	The Duty to Cooperate partners and other prescribed bodies are provided in Appendix A of the SCI. This list is prescribed in legislation. Residents Associations are listed in Appendix B.	No change.
3.2	Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	Consultation with neighbouring authorities - concern about balancing the pressure from neighbouring authorities (Tunbridge Wells, Eastbourne) at the same time as retaining small communities and villages as rural and pastoral. There needs to be balance here so that rural communities are not treated like urban environments	This will be a key matter to consider through the Local Plan process.	No change.

3.2	Mr John Bailey	<p>3.2 This was weak in the previous process as identified by the planning inspector. For example related to housing with Councillor comments like we had so many houses built in our Town you must allow more in yours. Planning should take a bigger picture viewed almost across the County. This should relate to work opportunities, transport, education, health tourism, recreation and other infrastructure issues together local landscape value. Therefore during consultation at a local level these wider issues should be clearly assessed and examined objectively. Definition of what makes up a "community" in a wider plan sense might help. 3.3 This should be more transparent with details of membership, and published minutes of meeting and feedback reports to partners as well as outcomes. 3.4 Transparency and best practice should enhance the legal requirements, by making people aware of what is going on and if it affects them they could be added to the list. 3.6 Last sentence details of Councillor's "call in" procedure should be clearly explained and transparent if one exist. 3.8 "accessible venues" should not just relate to the Buildings but location and time of meetings.</p>	<p>The Council will engage positively with its partners during the Local Plan process and how we meet our Duty to Cooperate will be set out transparently in Statements of Common Ground that will set out how we have addressed strategic cross boundary issues. These will be made available when finalised at certain stages of the plan making process.</p> <p>Section 3.4 is dealing with specific legal definitions of consultee groups. We agree with the broader point on making people aware of issues that affect them and will engage openly with our communities through the production of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Section 3.6 This does not refer to a 'call-in' procedure but explains that all councillors will be notified if a planning consultation is going ahead.</p> <p>Section 3.8 We will hold meetings across the District at a range of times / days through the Local Plan process to ensure we reach as wide a range of people as possible.</p>	No change.
3.2	Mrs D Harding	Beyond the legal duty and prescribed bodies....there is a morale obligation to listen to tax payers	We aim to involve all our communities and stakeholders in the plan making process.	No change.

3.2	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	3.2 Where cooperation is not working between policy making authorities, this presumably may delay/hinder local plans being deliverable. Could not see any suggestion as to how this may be addressed.	This matter is addressed by Planning Practice Guidance at Paragraph 022. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#maintaining-effective-cooperation	No change.
3.3	Laughton Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	Given possible concerns that Wealden may have to take other district's housing the disclosure of negotiations needs to be highly transparent to all interested parties.	Paragraph 3.3 details that the Council will publish statements of common ground as they are prepared and finalised for publication. The Council will also publish its evidence base as it becomes available.	No change.
3.3	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	3.3 is a statement that WDC will meet its requirements but given that this was a problem area highlighted by the inspector in the previous plan it does not say how they will sincerely do this.	This is set out in paragraph 3.3.	No change.
3.4	Scotland Gas Networks - Mr Gary Robertson	SGN are keen to support the Local Planning process, through regular engagement with the District Council, especially relating to matters of future development.	Noted. We will look forward to engaging with you in the production of the New Local Plan and relevant planning applications.	No change.
3.4	Mr Ray Beer	All consultations should give greater weight to the input from Hailsham Town Council. Current planning seems to take no notice of their recommendations. e.g. Marshfoot lane development.	Town and Parish Councils have a vital role to play in decision making and plan making in Wealden. Decisions must be taken balancing all necessary planning considerations.	No change.
3.4	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	The Localism Act 2011 places a duty (on WDC) that they will work and co-operate with "other prescribed bodies" such as Residents or Stakeholder Groups or Associations which should be recognised as a Consultee to WDC and be fully involved with planning policies and decisions which affect towns and villages in Wealden.	See above.	No change.

3.4	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	3.4/3.5. The appendix is not specific about the "general consultation bodies"™ at this stage we would expect the authority to have a list which should be published in an appendix so that any missed groups can ensure they are placed on the consultation list.	The Council has over 4,500 contacts on its database. Some of these contacts are provided by a person's name rather than a specific group. If there are groups you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us on planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk and we will update our records.	We have updated Appendix B to correspond with the text at 3.4.
3.4	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	The regulation referred to requires the Council to "invite" stated categories of people and organisations. One of those categories is "such residents or other persons carrying on business in [Wealden] from which [WDC] considers it appropriate to invite representations". There is nothing in this paragraph or document about WDC's criteria for deciding on whom to invite to make representations or how that duty will be carried out having regard to the Public Sector Equalities Duty, which is referred to (inaccurately) in paragraph 3.8, and there should be.	This paragraph explains who we notify and invite to make representations. The law sets out a list of 'specific' bodies that we must consult. This is a closed listed with no discretion. In terms of the 'general' bodies the criteria is set out in bullets 2 and 3. Organisations with an interest in the District. Anyone is free to make comments on our plans and we will promote consultations in accordance with the SCI and our forthcoming Engagement Strategy. We have a database of over 4,500 contacts, which we keep under review. If there are groups, individuals or organisations you feel we are not consulting with and should please let us know by contacting us at planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk The Equality Duty is set out in section 149 of The Equality Act 2010. We are unsure how we have inaccurately referred to this?	No change.

3.4	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	Not all of the general consultation bodies referred to here in the second bullet point are included in the second column of Appendix B. As Appendix B is most likely the part of the document that officers will refer to - it should be amended to include all of the Bodies referred to in the second bullet point, particularly interest and amenity groups and resident associations. Appendix B should also make reference to paragraph 3.4.	We have updated Appendix B to correspond with the text at 3.4.	No change.
3.5	Mr Colin Mackenzie	It is vital that voluntary bodies will be totally involved; planning policy has to be a bottom up rather than top down process, driven by the electorate and avoiding the suspicion that policy is dictated by government or developers	We have a large database of voluntary bodies we consult with on planning policy issues. If there are groups you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us on planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk and we will update our records.	No change.
3.5	Laughton Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	Are Social Housing bodies/Housing Associations included on the consultation list? It seems that the biggest issue in the district is a shortage of proper social/affordable housing and it is not clear who is speaking up for those in need of social housing. Unless lots of low cost housing-priced meaningfully below the median house price for Wealden- is built the statistics which generate how many houses need to be built in the district will never improve.	The Council has over 4,500 contacts on its database including housing providers. If there are groups you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us on planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk and we will update our records.	No change.
3.5	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	Not all of the general consultation bodies referred to in the second bullet point of paragraph 3.4 are included in the second column of Appendix B. As Appendix B is most likely the part of the document that officers will refer to - it should be amended to include all of the Bodies referred to in the second bullet point, particularly interest and amenity groups and resident associations. Appendix B	See above	See above

		should also make reference to paragraph 3.4.		
3.5	Mrs D Harding	All noted....however often bodies and organisations relevant to a planning submission are not aware Specifically....when living at our previous address on station road in Hailsham we were not notified of a number of consultations that directly and immediately impacts us and our neighbours	The Council runs a 'My Alerts' service you can sign up to that will provide information on planning applications nearby. We encourage our communities to sign up-to-this system. How we will consult on planning applications moving forward is provided in Appendix C of the SCI.	No change.
3.6	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	3.6 The details in this document do not seem wholly appropriate for the district. As previously stated, the website has a number of issues and documents can be very difficult to find and It does not take account of residents who are not in any way "online"™ Transparency will be key throughout the plan making process as it is for planning application decision making. These details and the details regarding accessibility should be outlined in the document	The SCI provides a range of consultation and engagement methods ensuring that we meet our statutory duty. This includes considering how we access those without internet.	No change.
3.6	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Relying on the Council's website and other passive means of communication will not always be sufficient to comply with the Council's duty to "invite" certain people and organisations to comment. Sometimes a direct approach, e.g. by email, letter or telephone, will be required.	We agree. We will be using a range of techniques to engage with our communities through the production of the New Local Plan. We send out both letters or emails to all those registered on our consultation database.	No change.
3.6	Broad Oak Residents Group - Miss Beryll Withers	A lack of communication between the council and the residents must be avoided at all cost. Poor or non existent communication can only result in engendering even more distrust between the	We have set out the methods in the SCI that we intend to utilise to ensure positive engagement throughout the process.	No change.

		population and the council.		
3.7	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	While the Council continues to approve developments that exacerbate the climate crisis, and the Government continues to fail to introduce air quality improvement laws that should have come into force in 2009, it is hard to think of any part of Wealden that won't be affected by development in another part.	This comment is outside the scope of the SCI consultation which is focused on consultation and engagement in the local planning system.	No change.
3.7	Mrs D Harding	Noted, but I refer you to my comment in 3.5	In relation to SPDs we would consult all those on our consultation database. However, we may undertake more targeted consultation as well. We have updated this paragraph to make this clearer.	Update made to paragraph 3.7.

3.7	Broad Oak Residents Group - Miss Beryll Withers	<p>It is n longer possible for any of us to not be impacted by continued development of our land. it is certainly no longer legally viable to allow continued destruction of our environment by developers. The UK Government is committed to cutting the UKs carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. On the 27th February 2020 for the very first time UK High Court judges said that plans for a major infrastructure project in the UK were illegal because they breached the UK's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle the climate crisis. It was confirmed that this ground-breaking legal decision will affect all future infrastructure developments and it puts the UKs commitment to cut emission to net zero by 2050 at the forefront of future policymaking. It would be a costly and dangerous route both economically and environmentally IF all developers are given a green light by Wealden to continue to dig up our green fields and to destroy our trees and hedgerows, the lungs of our countryside, in order to create housing estates full of ugly and inappropriate architecture. How do Wealden propose to keep carbons in the ground? How will Wealden prove to their tax payers that their priority is to take the UKs climate change commitments into account in order to achieve carbon neutral goals? The use of renewable materials and renewable energy in each housing development. The achievement of the Governments climate goals will depend on long term planning and innovation in design and the effective reduction of embedded carbon, which can be achieved, using efficient, well-co-ordinated and buildable design buildings, that are simple to</p>	<p>This is outside the scope of the SCI consultation which focuses on consultation and engagement. We hope you can positively engage with us in relation to these issues as part of our Local Plan consultations.</p>	No change.
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		<p>maintain; suitable material selections; and high levels of waste management. The Government has been told by the court of appeal to declare its decision to allow Heathrow airport expansion illegal. Ministers have two choices. They can withdraw the whole policy statement or try to amend it to make it compatible with the UKs commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. How will Wealden prioritise environmental issues when reviewing applications from housing developers? If Wealden were to agree the plans submitted for developments within the AONB that inevitably will destroy the AONB environment, it would contradict the Governments decision to cut emissions. And they would be rewarding the owner of a piece of land and the developer for an act of vandalism that would encourage other developers to do the same.</p>		
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3.8	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	WDC need to ensure that all people affected by COVID-19 or another major virus attack / pandemic in the future are able to attend public consultations public attendance or on-line viewing arrangements should be made so that everyone who may be affected by or have an interest in any housing development are given the means to attend and / or participate in such consultations.	We agree. If temporary restrictions apply and we cannot rely on traditional consultation methods (as set out in the SCI) we will ensure that we use technology to ensure that everyone can engage in the process.	No change.
3.8	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	The phrase "protective characteristics" is meaningless and does not appear anywhere in the Equalities Act; the phrase used in the Act is "protected characteristics".	Thank you for spotting this. The text will be amended.	Updated. Please note that equalities section has been updated and moved to chapter 1.
3.9	Mrs D Harding	This is significantly lacking and I refer you to my comment in 1.4 The council are not considering the residents with Neuro Diverse conditions and not making the process simpler for people to understand or engage.	We will aim to make all our documents easy to read, using plain English and avoiding jargon in order to make our documents accessible to all.	No change.
4	Mr Michael Gadd	It is through my past experience that the wording and the use of jargon has produced document that the average residents sees as a foreign language more use of document links need to be addressed if this situation is to continue , the whole documentation needs to be geared to the residents who life's will be affected into the future and not the paid professional that contrary the WDC belief will lead the plan and any consultation if the general public cannot understand the questions and documentation.	We agree that the New Local Plan should be concise, easy to read, use plain English and avoid jargon.	No change.

4	Mr Michael Gadd	Much more use needs to be made of hyperlinks in documents to avoid repetition so reducing document length.	We agree that the New Local Plan should be concise and will consider using hyperlinks where appropriate.	No change.
4	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	The section shows the process proposed but does not address how the Council will ensure they reach all required people. For example Town and Parish Councils are required to actively consult with their residents when developing a Neighbourhood Plan. In this document we feel that there need to be an explanation as to how they will engage with all age groups of consultee which is appropriate for the district and appropriate to the health pandemic. It will not be acceptable to just rely on online formats.	The Council is currently drafting a new Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan, which will provide further detail as to how the Council intends to engage with its partners and communities. We aim to have genuine engagement and to reach as wide a range of people as possible.	No change.
4	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	If Community Involvement is actually going to happen the documentation must be much more accessible to the general public. Plain English, minimum jargon, lengthy sections given a short overview, user friendly layouts. It is possible ,other Local Plan Submissions are much more user friendly. The previous submission involved several thousand pages of information often repeated in different sections, not accessible to the general public.	We also agree that the way we present information and local plan documents is important and we will try to do this in as concise a form as possible, using plain English and avoiding jargon.	No change.

4	Mr Michael Gadd	Part of the evolving new local plan the section on Green Open Spaces should be given a high priority. I base this on my role as a sports coach involved in Table Tennis. It may be that the 2 clubs I help run may never open again due to Covid 19, however it does not mean that their members will stop exercising as many have taken up walking in the open air as I have done (within the rules). I have had many messages saying that members will not take the risk of attending, particularly those from the at risk groups, which as we know are those that normally run and organise small club. GREEN OPEN SPACES will be far more important going forward and will be needed more than ever. WDC have a great opportunity to use its greatest asset The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the benefit of those that may lose other forms of exercise.	This comment is outside the scope of the SCI consultation which is focused on consultation and engagement in the local planning system. However, green open space will be an important factor to consider within the scope of a new Local Plan.	No change.
4	Mr Michael Gadd	It is welcomed by all that WDC has chosen to involve the community in Local Plan Consultations and I am sure that I speak for many residents that the more consultation the better, it has been left to much to residents groups such as www.stopvinescorner.co.uk to get the message out and get public opinion back to WDC so please ensure to keep to your plan led approach and fend off any pressure developers may put on WDC and the community you serve.	This comment is outside the scope of the SCI which focuses on engagement and consultation.	No change.

4	Mr Michael Gadd	As a supplementary to my comment regarding GREEN OPEN SPACES having just researched the use of an ancient lane part of the Route 21 in Heathfield, its usage has risen 10 fold during the current Covid 19 situation according to its residents, even if this was to fall back to a 5 fold uplift this is a huge increase and further demonstrates OPEN GREEN SPACE importance. I believe as part of the new Local Plan a survey should be undertaken to evaluate what uplift there has been in the use of OPEN GREEN SPACES.	Yes, Covid-19 will be considered in relation to evidence gathering and plan-making.	No change.
4	East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council - Cllr Chria Magness	Wealden is instructed to derive Housing Need using a standard model in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government. Since 2017 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has been tasked with compiling projections for such models. ONS declare that current models are formulated on previous models going back to 2008 and project to 2039 also noting that there is considerable variation in the projected data given the range of data involved. It would be apposite for the Wealden model to be based on a new local survey to update the Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN) compiled by Regeneris in 2017.	Government guidance on 2014 household projections is not a matter relevant to the SCI consultation.	No change.
4	Mr Jonathan Walker	In preparing our Neighbourhood Plan we are endeavouring to use Plain English. It would help us greatly if the Local Plan and its supporting documents were also understandable to the public.	We also agree that it is important for our new local plan and supporting documents to be easy to understand.	No change.

4	Mrs Debra Green	<p>Green Open Spaces should be given a high priority. During the current pandemic, many many people have come to realise that exercise, wildlife and bird watching can help to reduce anxiety and therefore help with mental health. In my role as Secretary to Heathfield & Waldron RFU, our members have struggled to find useable open space for exercise and training with SD in place - and this is with us having access to our own training pitches! How other groups and members of the public are managing, it is hard to fathom. Please place more emphasis on GREEN OPEN SPACES.</p>	<p>These comments are outside the scope of the SCI which is focused on consultation and engagement in the planning system. The Council will engage on local plan matters through local plan consultations including considering green and open spaces. We hope you will engage positively with us to shape future planning policies on such matters.</p>	No change.
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4	Barton Willmore - Mr David Maher	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) broadly sets the framework for the consultation WDC will undertake as part of work on the new Local Plan. We comment on the following areas of the SCI. Local Plan Process The SCI suggests (prior to a Local Development Scheme being in place) that WDC will undertake 3no. consultations on the Local Plan prior to submission, namely: - Issues and Options Consultation (Regulation 18); - Draft Local Plan Consultation (Regulation 18); and - Pre-Submission Local Plan Consultation (Regulation 19). Whilst we do not object to this, we consider that this goes above and beyond the statutory requirement and we would thus suggest a more streamlined Local Plan process/timetable. This will be particularly important given the urgency of getting a Plan in place in order to meet housing needs (both in the short and long-term), as well as meeting the Governments requirement of having a Local Plan in place by December 2023. We would therefore recommend that WDC carries out 2no. Local Plan consultations (i.e. 1no. Reg 18 consultation and 1no. Reg 19 consultation) prior to submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State. This will balance the statutory requirement (of undertaking both a Reg 18 and Reg 19 consultation) with the need to meet housing needs/getting a Plan in place as soon as possible. Duty to Cooperate The SCI correctly recognises that the Localism Act 2011 places a duty on the Council to work and cooperate with other local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to address strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. Furthermore (not noted in the SCI),</p>	<p>We are aware of the Government's target to have a plan in place by 2023. We consider it important and an essential part of plan-making to engage with our partners and communities. This includes undertaking a pre-production and informal consultation to identify key issues, opportunities, challenges and high level options and to engage with our communities and partners at an early stage in the plan making process.</p> <p>On the Duty to Cooperate point, comments are noted. Paragraph 3.3 details that the Council will publish statements of common ground as they are prepared and finalised for publication. The purpose will be to evidence how the Council is meeting its duty.</p>	No change.
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4.1	Mr John Bailey	<p>4.1 Mainly deals with process however, collecting collating and publishing relevant information needs substance, related to implementing the plan. For example how many empty buildings like Harcombe Manor Crowborough have been realistically offered for sale in their existing use. How many empty buildings are not marketed because they don't have an Energy Performance Certificate, which is a legal requirement. Applying for redevelopment can in some cases be seen as overcoming this requirement, giving a much higher value but destroying the local character of the area. Is for example a planning authority prepared to issue "Repair Notices" on listed buildings or have an empty rating policy to assist in achieving their plan objectives? What is their view as to using compulsory purchase should be clearly expressed and consulted on? Relying on developers viability statements and valuations is often the reason for poor developments, as they seek to increase profits. In some cases Unitary authorities with in house professionals are able to assess such situations leading to better planned outcomes. Putting Agricultural Land or a Nursery in the Housing framework area should be clearly consulted on as it is basically giving planning permission for Housing and is likely to happen due to increase value. Purchasers of Houses need assurance as to what is likely to happen next to them. Consultation and transparency is the key.</p>	<p>We agree consultation and transparency is key and we intend to engage with our communities and partners as the Local Plan process proceeds.</p> <p>The Council's approach to Compulsory Purchase or Heritage at Risk is not covered in the SCI, which deals with engagement on planning matters.</p>	No change.
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4.1	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	4.10 whilst the Government have indicated they are increasingly relying on an electronic means of consultation; however, this should be relevant to the districts characteristics and to rely on this alone will discount swathes of residents across the district.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures. These measures are temporary and at all other times we will continue to provide hard copies of documents where we are required to by law.	No change.
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4.1	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	<p>Fig. 2.1: Pre-production and informal consultation</p> <p>There needs to be a commitment to participatory engagement across the local area, so that all voices are heard. There should be a specific emphasis on hearing from those who are usually discriminated against or those who do not find it easy to participate. For example there will be those who do not have access to ICT or who are not accustomed to being involved in consultation or development. To achieve this, add the following: “Develop participatory methodology and structure, and plan to engage with a wide variety of communities, with a specific emphasis on inclusion, equality and diversity The third bullet point - "collect evidence and information through various sources" “ should be more specific about the kind of information and evidence that is being collected (and could align with the next suggestion). What does the fourth bullet point - confirm relevant environmental, economic and social objectives to inform the Sustainability Appraisal “ mean? Where do these objectives come from? Is there an existing list? We suggest changing this to the following: “Build a local vision that has clearly defined environmental, economic and social objectives that are proposed and supported by the local population “ and that consider issues around infrastructure, population, healthy food production, health and wellbeing, compliance with the Climate Change Act, local carbon emissions and sustainability, and employment (including the need for key workers for schools, the NHS, care, care, transport, food distribution and other key services) Fig. 2.2: Preparation of a draft local plan</p>	<p>.</p> <p>We agree that we must engage with hard to reach groups, including those without access to the internet. We will set out in more detail how we intend to do this in an engagement strategy for the Local Plan.</p> <p>The NPPF identifies evidence and information that is required in relation to plan making. It would be outside the scope of the SCI to provide this information. This is because the SCI is focused on the methods of how we will consult and engage rather than what is involved in the Local Plan process itself. Evidence is mentioned in Figure 2 because this relates to pre-production of a Local Plan. Further information in relation to the evidence and information we will collect will be provided in our consultation document when it is published later on in the year.</p> <p>The detailed Sustainability Assessment Objectives are set out in the SA Scoping Report following a detailed assessment of the sustainability issues Wealden is facing and taking into account a wide range of factors. We will be consulting on</p>	No change.
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		<p>Suggested additions – Produce a summarised, popular version of the draft plan (in relevant languages and brail / voice over) for virtual dissemination and public visibility (notice boards etc.). This could include a short, animated film version with the key issues covered – Use innovative dissemination and discussion methodology to ensure that a wide and diverse range of the local population provides feedback – Ensure the draft plan is consistent with the Climate Change Act and local Climate Emergency plans through the Sustainability Appraisal. Fig. 2.3: Publication of Pre-submission local plan Publication on the website is not enough. Not many people engage with this kind of consultation. Suggested additions: – Produce a summarised, popular version of the draft plan for virtual dissemination and public visibility (notice boards etc.). Could be a short, animated film version with the key issues covered. *Use innovative dissemination and discussion methodology to ensure a wide and diverse range of the local population provide feedback Fig. 2.4:Submission for independent examination If there is a structure (see 2.1 above) for a participatory consultation, the examiner can engage with that structure for verification. Fig. 2.6:Monitoring and review Use of the participatory structure for monitoring on an ongoing basis and for feedback from across the local area would be an efficient and useful way of picking up issues as they emerge (rather than waiting a year for review). The monitoring should closely examine the environmental and climate-related issues, as well as compliance with the Climate Change Act.</p>	<p>the SA scoping report later this year.</p> <p>Figure 2 is a summary of the Local Plan production. It is not within the scope of the SCI to consider what should be included in a local plan. However, as above, the Council is currently drafting a new Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan, which will provide further detail as to how the Council intends to engage with its partners and communities.</p>	
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4.1	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Would it be possible also to use a mass broadcast app such as Signal, to link much more with the younger population through mobile phones, rather than just limiting the communications to emails? People can sign up to broadcast channels free of charge.	The Council is currently drafting a new Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan, which will provide further detail as to how the Council intends to engage with its partners and communities. We aim to have genuine engagement and to reach as wide a range of people as possible.	No change.
4.1	Mr Jonathan Walker	Some documents submitted as part of the evidence base for the 2019 Submission Wealden Local Plan are still valid and will be taken forward to support the new Local Plan. These documents should be identified now and a list of them published now so that they can be used to inform Neighbourhood Plan preparations and provide information to determine current planning applications.	The Council's evidence base is available on the Council's website including documents previously available to support the withdrawn Local Plan We will be updating our evidence to support the new local plan and documents will be published when these are available. We will engage with Neighbourhood Plan steering groups as information becomes available.	No change.
4.1	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	4.1 Fig 2. Could there be a maximum period of consultation stated as the minimum stated is six weeks to minimise unnecessary delay in waiting for responses	There is a legal requirement at certain stages of the Local Plan process to consult for a minimum of six weeks. This does allow the Council, in certain circumstances to extend this consultation period if it is necessary to do so, for example to account for school holidays for example. We only need to accept responses when these are submitted during the consultation period.	No change.

4.1	Mr Michael Gadd	When producing a Local Plan it is important that once you have made a commitment that it is carried out. Example - A site in the SHELAA at Punnets Town in the WDC report recommended a maximum development of 5 dwelling and at a planning meeting an application for 6 was passed. decisions like this does not help the Councils creditability or give faith to the residents that WDC mean what they say.	Noted. However, the SHELAA is an evidence base document only. It is not a policy document.	No change.
4.1	Mr Jonathan Walker	As part of Stage 1, the Council should work with Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups for parishes that are preparing Neighbourhood Plans.	The Council has a duty to support Neighbourhood Plan Groups in the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plans and will continue to do this at all stages of the Council's own Local Plan.	No change.

4.1	Mr Chris Elphick	<p>This part of the document, in particular, lacks the precision needed to give the community sufficient confidence over the extent of research & meaningful consultation that will be involved. Expressions like (in 1) 'notify...relevant parties', 'collect evidence & information from various sources' (2) 'those listed above', and 'certain supporting documents' are just too vague. And reliance can't be placed on the Appendices provided to discover which organisations & groups are to be consulted since these are clearly incomplete. Regarding 3.below,it must be ensured that the full evidence base etc. will be made available on the website in advance of the publication of the pre-submission Plan and the start of the representation period. In 5, perhaps recognition should be given that the Inspector might well request or recommend modifications, and the intended procedure should be included to cover that quite likely eventuality.</p>	<p>The Council has listed its duty to cooperate partners and prescribed bodies (appendix A).</p> <p>Appendix B sets out general consultation bodies. Anyone can sign up to be notified about our consultations. We have a large database of groups we consult with on planning policy issues. It is not possible to list all groups specifically at Appendix B.</p> <p>The Council will also consult with all residents who wish to be consulted on the Local Plan process.</p> <p>If there are groups you feel we should be consulting and are not currently doing so, please contact us at planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk and we will update our records.</p> <p>As set out in the diagram, the Council will publish its evidence base when it becomes available. This may be before the pre-submission consultation or may be at the time of the consultation. There may be instances following the Regulation consultation where further evidence is required. Where this is the case this will be published for the Regulation 19 stage.</p>	No change.
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			<p>At this stage, the Planning Inspector appointed for the Council's Local Plan would be in charge of the process and would recommend main modifications etc. This process would be defined by the Inspector's recommendations and our legal requirements.</p>	
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4.2	Tonbridge & Malling District Council	In light of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, we feel that more information needs to be provided in respect of how public consultation events and the holding of hard copies and for inspection will work in practice. This view is supported by recent updates to national Planning Policy Guidance which state that authorities should review their SCI€™s to reflect social distancing guidelines which may have an impact on face to face events and the providing of physical documents for inspection. There is some confusion within the SCI as paras 4.4 and 4.6 appear to be contradictory. Greater clarity is needed here.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
4.2	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Potential additional methods: The use of public consultation events held in accessible locations would be important at the pre-production stage, so that innovation can be introduced early on. The drafts tend to be written by consultants, who do not necessarily know about the diversity of planning that is possible, nor the innovations in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. Once topics are fixed, it is more difficult to bring in diversity in voices and ideas to the process. People need to feel included and listened to at the early stages, otherwise they will disengage.	The purpose of an early informal consultation will be to identify key issues, opportunities, challenges and high level options. The consultation document will be drafted by Council Officers. The Council will consult widely on this document in accordance with the detail provided in the Engagement Strategy.	No change.

4.2	Mr Paul Lovatt Smith	<p>The biggest fault in Wealden's local planning process in the recent past has been a lack of knowledge of what the majority of residents think about development in the district. The response rates to consultations have been very low, with only a few tens or perhaps hundreds of individuals responding, excluding those with a commercial interest (e.g. developers, land agents etc.). In a district with over 66,000 households this does not represent a good enough level of community involvement. In my view there are two reasons for this: 1. An exclusive reliance by the council on a pro-active response to consultations (i.e. the responsibility is entirely on the respondent to find and act on the information) 2. The information is far too large and complex for the vast majority of residents to digest, (there are many documents, some of which run into hundreds of pages, containing language and terms that many people do not understand). The methods of consultation proposed in this document do not seem to be very different to previous ones and therefore a similarly poor level of response should be expected. This is unsatisfactory and undemocratic. By contrast, in 2000 the council carried out a public consultation on future development which was sent out by post to all 61,000 households and received 9,448 responses. This 15% response rate was judged to be robust enough for the purposes of statistical analysis by the organisers of the survey. The survey contained a simple summary of the number of homes required and the planning process and asked 9 easy to understand questions on, for example, where the sites for the</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments which are noted.</p> <p>The Council is currently drafting a new Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan, which will provide further detail as to how the Council intends to engage with its partners and communities. We aim to have genuine engagement and to reach as wide a range of people as possible.</p> <p>We also agree that the way we present information is important and we will try to do this in as concise a form as possible, using plain English and avoiding jargon.</p> <p>We agree the use of surveys can be effective in reaching large numbers of residents in the District, including those that might not otherwise be aware of the Local Plan process. This must be weighed against the significant costs involved. We also agree that surveys are most effective towards the beginning of the Local Plan process and are an excellent way to raise awareness early on. We aim to publish an early consultation document for this purpose later this year.</p>	No change.
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		<p>new houses should be and what issues were important with regard to travel and jobs. The responses should have informed planning policy, for example 97% of respondents agreed that homes should be built on brownfield sites and only 12% on greenfield sites. I suggest that a similar postal survey should be carried out for the new local plan, sent to every household at the earliest stages of the planning process. It should ask similar questions to the 2000 survey, such as: where new homes should go what type of site physical type of homes needed financial type of homes needed (council housing, housing association, private etc.) important factors in development (e.g. parking, shops, cycle routes, play areas, traffic calming, healthcare, education, social/pubs) travel priorities (bus, train, cycle, car, safety, traffic) employment/business priorities environment and climate change priorities (e.g. renewable energy generation) If a similar response rate can be obtained to the 2000 survey, the council will be able to plan in much surer knowledge of what its residents actually want, rather than making assumptions based on a relatively small number of pro-active comments during the consultation.</p>		
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4.2	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	Table 1 does not include Public Consultation events As part of the Statutory process, but as a n exercise subject to resources, and only at the pre-production and informal consultation stage. This will not provide the community with any security that a public consultation event may be held. The council should commit to such an event to allow two way engagement on a range of local issues, and also follow up with a public engagement event prior to the pre-submission stage. This is considered crucial to enable the local community who will be impacted considerably by the plan, to see the quantum of development being proposed, location and boundaries of development and the policies pertinent to the local area, and to allow the community to properly engage with the authority and influence the evolving plan prior to submission.	We agree consultation and transparency is key and we intend to engage with our communities and partners as the Local Plan process proceeds. Table 1 identifies statutory requirements. These are provided in law and we have differentiated between those statutory requirements and those that are in addition. We intend to hold public consultation events during the Local Plan process as provided in the SCI. This includes at the Draft Local Plan stage. These events will be at different times and different days of the week and in a number of different locations. Where face-to-face events are not possible due to COVID-19 we will take other measures to ensure we undertake effective engagement. We will provide further information within an Engagement Strategy.	No change.
4.3	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	It is not enough to have responses available only through the website and consultation portal. People who do not have access or don't feel comfortable using these methods will be excluded. There needs to be diversity of engagement " both face to face and through other media platforms (for example, young people will engage more through social media than through the website portal).	We intend to hold public consultation events during the Local Plan process as provided in the SCI. These events will be at different times and on different days of the week and in a number of different locations. Where face-to-face events are not possible due to COVID-19 we will take other measures to ensure we undertake effective engagement.	No change.

4.3	East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council - Cllr Chria Magness	It would be useful if My Alerts could allow for subscribers to expand the area of interest to cover areas outside the immediate residential location. The range is currently limited to one kilometre.	The 'My Alerts' system is only a single method of consulting on a Local Plan as described in Table 1: Local Plan Consultation Methods. If used for the Local Plan consultation process, all subscribers to the 'My Alerts' system would be contacted.	No change.
4.4	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	If the Council produces a popular summarised version, then hard copy production can be made cheaper and there can be wider paper- based consultation.	It is a legal requirement to provide hard copy Local Plan documents at certain stages. It is not possible to summarise Local Plans, however, if parties are interested in a certain chapter, then we could provide this, subject to resources. We agree with the wider point about the need to present the information in a concise and accessible way for our communities.	No change.
4.5	Mr Darren Manuel	This needs clarifying. It appears at first glance to suggest that plans could be rushed through, via the back door, so to speak.	<p>This comment relates to COVID 19 measures.</p> <p>The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures.</p> <p>The Council is currently drafting a new Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan which will provide further detail in relation to the methods that the Council will use to engage with partners and communities. This may</p>	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.

			mean using alternative consultation methods if COVID-19 restrictions apply.	
4.5	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	(This comment also applies to paragraph 4.6) It is extremely important that COVID-19 is not used as an excuse for not doing any face to face talking. Focus groups can be held outside during the summer, with socially distanced discussions in groups of the permitted number. It would not be difficult to issue invitations and adopt a participatory methodology. Moreover, there is no health issue with handling a document as long as the reader washes their hands before and afterwards and wears a mask while reading. Gel could be provided in the libraries and other access points for that purpose.	We intend to hold public consultation events during the Local Plan process as provided in the SCI. Where face-to-face events are not possible due to COVID-19 we will take other measures to ensure we undertake effective engagement while ensuring safety.	No change.

4.6	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	4.6 the engagement process needs to be transparent to ensure democracy is maintained. Local visions should be built from local knowledge. This bullet point seems to override 4.4 but without detail as to what will be done.	We agree consultation and transparency is key and we intend to engage with our communities and partners as the Local Plan process proceeds. However, where face-to-face events are not possible due to COVID-19 we will take other measures to ensure we undertake effective engagement while ensuring safety. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
4.6	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Please see comment on paragraph 4.5.	See above.	No change.
4.6	Laughton Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	Concern that with fewer libraries with limited hours and poor internet that small rural parishes will be disadvantaged at viewing documents.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures. These measures are temporary and at all other times we will continue to provide hard copies of documents where we are required to.	No change.
4.8	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	(This comment also applies to paragraph 4.9) We are concerned that only those who have already been in contact with the Council about the plan will be contacted. Why cant a letter be sent to every resident in the area, Inviting them to certain participatory events and giving them the information they need to engage? The Council could also contact residents by phone and use email addresses it has gathered for other	The consultation database of over 4,500 individuals/ organisations is just one means of contacting people. Table 1 sets out other ways we can consult e.g.. leafleting or open public meetings, posters in areas etc.. In 2015 as part of the Issues and Options Consultation the Council sent a leaflet to every household in the	No change.

		purposes (if the appropriate consent has been given; if not currently sought, it should be).	district to seek engagement at that stage. The details as to how we consult moving forward will be a Council decision including a consideration of costs and the delivery of effective engagement.	
4.8	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	4.8 The Council needs to explain how they will capture new consultees.	The consultation database of over 4,500 individuals/organisations is just one means of contacting people. Table 1 sets out other ways we can consult e.g. leafleting or open public meetings, posters in areas etc. In 2015 as part of the Issues and Options Consultation the Council sent a leaflet to every household in the district to seek engagement at that stage. The details as to how we consult moving forward will be a Council decision including a consideration of costs and the delivery of effective engagement.	No change.
4.9	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Please see comments on paragraph 4.8.	See above.	No change.
4.9	Mrs D Harding	Under the data protection act you have to formally ask people that you can retain their information for this purpose and not assume. I have never been asked this as a resident and respondent	Our consultation software requires those that sign up to give their consent for their personal data to be used in compliance with the GDPR.	No change.

5	Mr John Bailey	Whilst the ones stated are noted an up to date Public Realm/Art Document particularly related to the towns should also be relevant, together with suggested additional conservation areas providing how the district will be enhanced in the future, as modern development appears to have the opposite effect. The plan should also comment on its investment policy given that Wealden spent £12 million on the purchase of Vicarage Field Shopping Centre in Hailsham without any District wide public consultation was it for a Planning purpose. Some Councils show how their investment portfolios support their planning objectives, and have a transparent consulted policy in that respect.	Conservation Area designation and an investment policy is outside of the scope of the SCI consultation.	No change.
5	Mr Michael Gadd	Should these documents be assessed by the Plain English Society as sometimes to the lay person it seems a different language, and gives the impression you are addressing the developers rather than the more important residents who pay taxes, vote and have to live in the area.	We agree our Supplementary Planning Document should be concise, easy to read, use plain English and avoid jargon.	No change.
5	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	These documents are material consideration and therefore any SPDs need to be transparently available and should be communicated to all consultees. They should show clear criteria which is relevant to WDC and should not introduce new elements not already included in the policies. Consultation methods should be reviewed to ensure they are suitable for Wealden District.	In relation to SPDs, these are often topic based and we will meet the statutory requirements for consultation. Where relevant and where we have the resources to do so we will hold public consultation events. We also agree that SPDs should not introduce new policies, but should elaborate on existing policies to clarify matters where this is needed and this is in line with national planning policy on this matter.	Update to Table 2 to add in 'topic area'.

5	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Fig. 3.1: Evidence gathering and engagement. Regarding the first bullet point - "Identify whether an SPD is required" - it is not clear what criteria are used to identify whether an SPD is required. It would be useful to provide a footnote here with information on how that is determined. The type of participation of the population will depend on what kind of SPD is being produced, so there needs to be some flexibility with the requirements.	The criteria used to identify whether an SPD is required is loosely set out in paragraph 5.1. SPDs may be required where it would provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted development plan. It is usual practice to identify in a Local Plan the intention to provide an SPD	No change.
5.1	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	(These comments also apply to paragraph 5.2) SPDs should always have a sustainability appraisal to ensure that any provisions comply with the Climate Change Act 2008 and local climate and ecological emergency plans. As these are a material consideration in determining planning applications, it is really important to ensure they are consistent with moving to zero carbon and regenerative practices. We agree with the suggestion above that all such documents should be written in Plain English.	Government guidance is clear that SAs are only required for SPDs in "exceptional circumstances". This is because SPDs cannot set policy but only provide additional detail to the policies set out in a Local Plan. Local Plan policies are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.	No change.
5.2	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Please see the comments on paragraph 5.1.	See above.	No change.
5.5	Mr Colin Mackenzie	Public Consultation Events held in accessible locations should be regarded as a vital part of involving the electorate, and not subject to resources	We intend to hold public meetings for the production of our New Local Plan (where COVID 19 restrictions allow). Where we cannot do this we will use other methods including online/virtual methods, whilst also ensuring that those without internet access have an opportunity to engage with us. In relation to SPDs, these are often topic based and we will meet the statutory requirements for	No change.

			consultation. Where relevant and where we have the resources to do so we will hold public consultation events.	
5.5	Tonbridge & Malling District Council	In light of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, we feel that more information needs to be provided in respect of how public consultation events and the holding of hard copies and for inspection will work in practice. This view is supported by recent updates to national Planning Policy Guidance which state that authorities should review their SCI to reflect social distancing guidelines which may have an impact on face to face events and the providing of physical documents for inspection.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
5.5	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	If the towns and villages in Wealden are to support a new WDC Local Plan then not only must they be consulted via the Neighbourhood Plans and Residents / Stakeholder groups or association/s they must be able to attend and participate in Public Consultation Events which must be held in accessible locations and at times of day / evening which all people can attend.	We intend to hold public consultation events during the Local Plan process as provided in the SCI. These events will be at different times and different days of the week and in a number of different locations. Where face-to-face events are not possible due to COVID-19 we will take other measures to ensure we undertake effective engagement.	No change.

5.5	MR Miles Dempsey	Both towns and villages in Wealden need to actively engage and support any new WDC Local Plan, therefore they must be consulted via the Residents Association/s. Access to attend and participate in “Public Consultation Events”™ at accessible locations and at times of day/evening which all people can attend. 'Subject to Resources' - given the importance resources must not be constrained, necessary engagement must be demonstrated given it impacts stakeholder lives, homes, and enjoyment of East Sussex.	<p>We intend to hold public meetings for the production of our new Local Plan (where COVID 19 restrictions allow). Where we cannot do this we will use other methods including online/virtual methods, whilst also ensuring that those without internet access have an opportunity to engage with us.</p> <p>In relation to SPDs, these are often topic based and we will meet the statutory requirements for consultation. Where relevant and where we have the resources to do so we will hold public consultation events.</p>	Update to Table 2 to add in ‘topic area’.
5.5	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	Table 2 does not include Public Consultation events As part of the Statutory process, but as an exercise subject to resources, and only at the draft DPD stage. This will not provide the community with any security that a public consultation event may be held. The council should commit to such an event to allow two way engagement on a range of local issues, and also follow up with a public engagement event prior to the Final SPD stage. This is considered crucial to enable the local community who will be impacted considerably by the SPD to understand what is being proposed and the policies pertinent to the local area, and to allow the community to properly engage with the authority and influence the evolving SPD prior to submission.	In relation to SPDs we would consult all those on our consultation database. SPDs can cover a range of topic areas and it may not always be relevant to hold public consultation events. We will meet statutory requirements and where relevant and where we have the resources to do so we will hold public consultation events. However, we may undertake targeted consultation as set out in paragraph 3.7. We have updated this paragraph to make this clearer.	Update to Table 2 to add in ‘topic area’. Update to paragraph 3.7 to make clearer.

6	Mr John Bailey	<p>Sometimes other approaches achieve better results. The long standing local plan designation of open space at the Goldsmith Crowborough provides a good example. Before the Glebelands Housing at Chapel Green was developed it was allocated as public open space, however due to the cost based on Compensation Rules the Parish Council could not afford it so a deal had to be done where some was developed. The same could apply to the Goldsmith Open Space designation. For example if planning permission was granted for a few houses on the Eridge Road frontage with the remainder of the land being given to the Town Council who own the adjoining Camping site. It could be used by the public and campers for exercise and as a Rally Field controlled by a site licence. No buildings should be constructed there as they could be seen from Eridge Forstal and Boars Head. The recent application for a major development there in an AONB showed scant regard for that designation and the plan allocation for additional opens space. The Pine Grove Development yet to be occupied and the Coronavirus exercise requirement proves additional space is required in that part of Town. The much used footpath (longer than 20years) through the fields to opposite Oakland Drive should also be added to the definitive map.</p>	<p>Site assessment for future development sites will be a key part of the Local Plan process but fall outside the scope of the SCI.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
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6	Laughton Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	Duty to co-operate: Not sure what this means in this context. So if e.g. Ringmer or Uckfield parish/town councils receive a lot of CIL money for large housing developments yet e.g. Laughton experiences an increase in traffic on its rural lanes used as rat runs because of congested main roads and a lack of alternative means of transport i.e. public transport, which then results in Laughton residents not feeling safe walking or cycling on its lanes, does Laughton have a say in how those other council's spend their CIL money? e.g. cycle lanes, subsidising bus routes, or contributions towards traffic calming?	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation.	No change.
6	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	Each year WDC ask the Town and Parish Councils to let them know exactly how they have spent their CIL monies. The information required is sufficiently detailed that it is clear how it has been spent and what it was spent on. WDC need to be as transparent with how they use their CIL money. There should be monthly reports on what monies they have collected and, because currently it goes into a central pot, there should be transparency on the spend. Monies collected for Town and Parish Councils are often not sufficient to pay for substantial but necessary infrastructure changes and therefore like other district councils there should be an opportunity to bid for additional money from the District Pot.	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation. However, the Council's Authority Monitoring Report reports on CIL on an annual basis (see section 8).	No change.
6.1	Mr Colin Mackenzie	The table defines the CIL charging schedule consultation process in considerable detail but fails to define the process of allocating CIL proceeds. There is a needs for far greater transparency in defining CIL proceeds, consultation with local bodies so as to prioritise the allocation of CIL proceeds to local	How CIL is spent is a democratic process and a decision is made by the Council as to where CIL funds are allocated. The Council will publish an Infrastructure Funding Statement by 31st December 2020. This will detail the types of infrastructure that the	No change.

		infrastructure needs	Council intends to fund.	
6.1	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	Again I will base my comments on my own views about CIL together with what I know of how Heathfield residents view CIL: Heathfield has seen very little benefit (for several years) from the CIL payments arising from developments in and around Heathfield – The CIL allocation process should be communicated to Wealden residents and in particular to the Neighbourhood Planning and Residents / Stakeholder Associations representing the communities The CIL allocation process should include consultation with the towns and villages and in particular how the CIL should be spent.	Coil spending falls outside the scope of the SCI. See comments above also.	No change.
6.1	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	Much greater transparency is needed regarding the spending of CIL Payments. Regular updates are needed. The general public have no belief that new development will be accompanied by the necessary infrastructure. This gives rise to justifiable opposition to new development. When the Planning Officers dismiss residents genuine concerns regarding infrastructure by saying CIL will provide this is not true especially for smaller rural communities. Parish Councils should be given a greater share of CIL payments accompanying developments in their Parish. We are also concerned that in the current COVID crisis developers may be able to defer CIL payments,.	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation. However, the Council's Authority Monitoring Report reports on CIL on an annual basis (see section 8). Where a Neighbourhood Plan is not in place, Towns and Parish Council's receive 15% of CIL funds collected from developments in their area. This is provided by national planning legislation. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place Town and Parish Council's receive 25%. This is in line	No change.

			with statutory requirements.	
6.1	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Given that the Council already has a CIL charging structure, why does this section cover putting one in place rather than amending one? Government guidance draws a distinction between major amendments that should be subject to extensive consultation and minor ones that need little or none. Shouldn't this section deal with the Council's view on the borders between major, minor requiring consultation and minor not requiring consultation (if that's thought appropriate in any case, which it may not be), and in the first two instances what extent and methods of consultation are proposed?	It is intended that Wealden's CIL charging schedule will be reviewed and where necessary updated. This review will run in parallel with the production of the Local Plan, since both a local plan and a charging should inform and be generally consistent with each other as provided by paragraph 012 in Planning Practice Guidance (Community Infrastructure Levy).	No change.

6.1	Mr Sheldon Kenton	<p>Im very sceptical about this. So often we see developments proposals boasting about affordable housing at the outline stage which then turns into a CIL payment which seems to do nothing at all for the community in which the development is being imposed. If it is believed that this is the way forward then the CIL payments should be substantially higher. A re-balancing of the economics of development in favour of the local community would at least give developers pause for thought. At the moment they can build, bung some money to the council in the form of a CIL and then disappear with their vast profits leaving the community to deal with the burden of over subscribed schools, doctors and dentists and the increased traffic on their roads.</p>	<p>CIL spending falls outside the scope of the SCI.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
6.1	Mr Jonathan Walker	<p>We understand the Councils decision to centralise the majority of CIL money into a central fund that is used for strategic projects. However, we object to the planning department and developers claiming that the infrastructure inadequacies of rural communities will be addressed by CIL money. The central fund has not spent any money in our Parish and is unlikely to ever do so. The claims that CIL funding is resolving infrastructure problems in villages is dishonest. Public knowledge of the decision making process and transparency of the allocation of CIL money is very poor. We suggest an annual report is produced showing the CIL receipts, expenditure and current cash holdings. It should also include a list of the projects being considered with an indication of their cost so that any deficit is identifiable. This could be incorporated into the AMR. The deficit is important and should be</p>	<p>This comment is outside the scope of this consultation.</p> <p>However, the Council's Authority Monitoring Report reports on CIL on an annual basis (see section 8).</p> <p>Decisions on CIL spend is a democratic decision. Information on the infrastructure required to accommodate growth is set out in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This is a working document that will be updated over time in support of the new Local Plan.</p> <p>In accordance with legislation the Council will publish its first Infrastructure Funding Statement by</p>	<p>No change.</p>

		available to the public. It provides an indication that the current years CIL receipts are paying to build infrastructure to satisfy the needs of development from previous years. The public should know how wide the deficit is. If the deficit is substantial then it is an indication that the level of CIL charges is too low.	31st December 2020. This will set out key information relating to CIL and developer contributions.	
6.1	Mrs D Harding	Greater transparency about allocation of CIL to developments is required and of the actual expenditure as its public money. Also there are many local services such as Fire, Police, Ambulance that rarely have an opportunity to be considered, but are still impacted by the increase in demand for services when major developments take place. This is exactly the situation that has occurred in Hailsham from my understanding	CIL spending falls outside the scope of the SCI.	No change.

6.1	Mrs Debra Green	<p>My view is that Heathfield has seen very little benefit from the CIL payments arising from developments in and around Heathfield in recent years, considering the amount of development. The CIL allocation process should be transparent to residents/Neighbourhood Planning groups etc. who should be asked how they want the CIL to be spent in the area affected by development, and not have it spent on facilities in another town or village. For example Heathfield has an ACV on a field that was, until recently, used by many generations for leisure. CIL money could be spent to purchase that field, and provide much-needed GREEN SPACE for the residents, which will link up cycle routes and walking routes from the top of Marklye Lane to the Millennium Green.</p>	<p>This comment is outside the scope of the SCI consultation which is focused on consultation and engagement in the local planning system. However, green open space will be an important factor to consider within the scope of a new Local Plan.</p>	No change.
6.1	MR Miles Dempsey	<p>There are reasonable concerns about CIL as an inappropriate action. Heathfield residents view CIL: Heathfield has seen very little benefit (for several years) from the CIL payments arising from developments in and around Heathfield. The CIL allocation process should be communicated to Wealden residents, and in particular to the Residents Associations, representing the communities. The CIL allocation process should particularly include consultation with the local towns and villages impacted and in particular the Residents Associations regarding how CIL should be prioritised to support agreed initiatives.</p>	<p>This comment is outside the scope of this consultation.</p> <p>However, the Council's Authority Monitoring Report reports on CIL on an annual basis (see section 8).</p> <p>Decisions on CIL spend is a democratic decision. Information on the infrastructure required to accommodate growth is set out in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This is a working document that will be updated over time in support of the new Local Plan.</p>	No change.

6.1	Mr Stephan Butler	<p>There needs to be more public consultation to identify the types of infrastructure projects that are going to be funded by CIL money. In my opinion the greatest bugbear for the public when new housing developments are approved, they don't see how infrastructure will be improved to support the growth in population. Residents need to know how they can influence how developer's money is spent in their local communities. There needs to be a series of public drop-in meetings to decide on the infrastructure projects. Also for greater transparency, when major planning applications go to committee, a document from the local authority should accompany the application. The document should detail (if planning is granted) how the CIL money will be spent.</p>	<p>Decisions on CIL spend is a democratic decision. Information on the infrastructure required to accommodate growth is set out in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This is a working document that will be updated over time in support of the New Local Plan.</p> <p>We agree that communities should have a say in how CIL is spent in their area. Neighbourhood Planning provides a great way for local communities to do this. Neighbourhood Plans can set out community priorities for how a proportion (25%) of CIL raised in their area is spent. This bottom-up approach empowers local communities to direct the benefits of growth as best they see fit (provided the projects relate to infrastructure). We will provide advice and assistance to Town and Parish Council's / communities that wish to take this route.</p> <p>Where a Neighbourhood Plan is not in place, Towns and Parish Council's receive 15% of CIL funds collected from developments in their area.</p>	No change.
6.1	Mr Ray Beer	<p>these CIL payments should be used immediately and for the benefit of Residents who are most affected. i.e. nearby roads, and infrastructure projects. The money must not be siphoned off to</p>	<p>This comment is outside the scope of this consultation.</p>	No change.

		meet other problems.		
6.1	Mr Michael Gadd	Whether you agree with CIL or not there needs to be much more transparency on what is collected, where it is spent. Surely it would not be beyond WDC to produce a chart with just 4 columns, Statutory Charge per development, Actual Charge by per development, CIL past to Parish and Used for. A simple spreadsheet.	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation. However, the Council's Authority Monitoring Report reports on CIL on an annual basis (see section 8).	No change.
6.1	Mrs Carol Baker	With regard to the Mallard Drive development the amount of money contributed to the local area by the developers was reduced. We also have no idea how any monies are going to be spent.	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation.	No change.
6.1	Mr Christopher Bloor	Not sure if this is the correct place for this comment, but in the past major developers have either delayed or reneged on commitments to develop local infrastructure projects, giving priority to build and sell residential properties. In my view the Council should introduce contractual commitments into agreements with developers that compel them to build the infrastructure projects such as schools, leisure and health facilities, transport and other services at an early stage of the development rather than after completion of the housing development.	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation. However, funding for necessary infrastructure to support new development is provided through CIL payments and S106 agreements. CIL payments must be made when the development commences. S106 is a legal agreement negotiated between the Council and developer on particular sites.	No change.

6.2	Tonbridge & Malling District Council	In light of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, we feel that more information needs to be provided in respect of how public consultation events and the holding of hard copies and for inspection will work in practice. This view is supported by recent updates to national Planning Policy Guidance which state that authorities should review their SCIE™s to reflect social distancing guidelines which may have an impact on face to face events and the providing of physical documents for inspection.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
7	Mr Michael Gadd	With the current situation independent and community businesses have reverted to pre widespread car usage trading methods and are now home delivering. Should WDC be insisting and funding Neighbourhood Plans which would incorporate this element. The benefits are lower car usage, higher local employment, environmental benefits and perhaps a proviso that the extra 10% CIL payment should be used to fund the local enterprise, and that the plan should be driven by Parish Council and Local Chamber of Trade in partnership. This would fit within WDC vision of community involvement.	<p>It is for Parish Councils and local communities to determine the contents/policies of their neighbourhood plans provided they meet certain requirements / basic conditions. It is the Council's role to provide advice and assistance to support policy making. It is also the Council's role to fund the statutory process of the Regulation 16 consultation, the hearing and Referendum.</p> <p>CIL charging rates are set through an independent examination and must be spent on funding infrastructure to support development in the area.</p>	No change.

7	Mr John Bailey	<p>Planning applications related to Crowborough where committee decision are required are held in Hailsham. Hailsham has poor public transport links with Crowborough and residents have found this situation totally unacceptable, and therefore limits their involvement in that part of the planning process. It is therefore not surprising to see that Hailsham and Hellingly are way ahead in the Neighbourhood Plans process, as they are closest to the Planning Offices. Additional Planning resources should be directed at those areas in the North of the District. Evening meetings supported by planning officers would be necessary for the public to be involved, if they have faith in the Neighbourhood Plan concept, not being overridden.</p>	<p>We will support all neighbourhood planning groups wherever they are in the District. Section 7 sets out how we intend to do this. The timetable for production of a neighbourhood plan sits with the groups that are producing them – Town / Parish councils and local steering groups.</p>	No change.
7	Mr Sheldon Kenton	<p>I think neighbourhood plans need additional thought. My experience (and those who have tried this in other parishes) is that Parish councils (and WDC Councillors) are not universally supportive of these plans coming to life. I cant determine if that is because they feel they have no use and aren't worth the effort or whether they clash with the powers that PC€™s/ Councillors think they wield. Perhaps they need to be mandatory or incentivised in some other way. But it is quite clear that in the current environment with no Wealden local plan, developers clearly believe that villages without neighbourhoods plans are easy pickings for land grabs into the countryside.</p>	<p>The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC has a duty to support and assist Neighbourhood Plan groups. This includes providing advice and assistance. The Council has supported three Neighbourhood Plans to date, Hellingly which has is 'made' Neighbourhood Plan and also Hailsham and Hellingly Neighbourhood Plans which have had successful examinations. The Council is currently supporting other Town and Parish Council's in the process also. We welcome Towns and Parish</p>	No change.

			Council's to contact the Planning Policy team if they would like to consider or start a Neighbourhood Plan.	
7	Mr David Turton	Agriculture in the High Weald AONB will be facing increasing financial strains. Because of Brexit there will be increasing competition from overseas in agricultural produce. The subsidy that Farmers have come to rely on for income is set to decrease significantly. The harsh truth is that although hugely beautiful the land is only of Grade three quality making it even more difficult to farm profitably. I contend that Wealden District Council must reintroduce its 'Flexible Approach'. Neighbourhood plans will be very important in helping with this because of local knowledge. In centuries past there used to be a mixed economy in the High Weald, Iron ore smelting, Smithies, Cart makers, weavers, etc. I feel strongly that in order for the 'High Weald' to pay for itself to become more financially self sufficient, there needs to be a return to a mixed economy in the High Weald albeit with modern trade of an environmental nature.	This comment is outside the scope of the SCI consultation which is focused on consultation and engagement in the local planning system. Planning matters will be considered as the Local Plan progresses and we hope you can engage with us positively on such issues.	No change.

7	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	It is crucial for Town and Parish Councils views to be heard. Greater emphasis and more weight should be applied in formulating a Neighbourhood Plan. Doing so is a great deal of work, but if a neighbourhood plan is accepted and adopted as it has been in Hellingly only recently, the planning authority has to take further note of it.	We will support all neighbourhood planning groups. Section 7 sets out how we intend to do this. The timetable for production of a neighbourhood plan sits with the groups that are producing them – Town / Parish councils and local steering groups. Neighbourhood Plans once ‘made’ form part of the Development Plan. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.	No change.
7	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	This section is mostly regarding consultation. 7.5 says that consultations should be tailored and take into account effectiveness of certain methods. This principle should be the same for consultations launched by WDC.	The consultation methods for the new Local Plan and other documents are set out in full at Section 4 of the SCI. The Council will continue with its aim to provide the opportunity for everyone to have their say on planning policy and have provided a range of methods to ensure that engagement is effective.	No change.

7.1	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	Neighbourhood plans should be compulsory throughout Wealden this would enable greater level of involvement and buy-in to a new WDC Local Plan. Towns like Heathfield which was subjected to a feeding frenzy of planning applications in 2015 and which could again become a planning hot spot need a Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Councils should be required to produce such a plan by WDC. A Neighbourhood Plan gives communities the chance to work alongside WDC and to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which reflects the needs and wants of their communities while fitting with the WDC Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan puts a community in a much stronger position should inappropriate housing developments be proposed however it is not a means of stopping growth.	<p>This is not how the law works and runs against the spirit of localism and community empowerment. It is up to Parish/Town councils & local communities to decide if they want to progress their own neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>This is a decision for the Town / Parish council.</p> <p>We agree. If the Town Council wish to progress a neighbourhood plan we will assist as set out in Section 7 of the SCI.</p>	No change.
7.1	Mrs D Harding	In practical experience the Neighbourhood Plans put together by parish and town councils are ignored by the Planning Authority and this is what the public are directly told by Cllrs on those bodies	Neighbourhood Plans that have passed referendum form part of the Development Plan. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.	No change.

7.1	Mrs Debra Green	Neighbourhood plans should be compulsory throughout Wealden. Heathfield for example has been denied a Neighbourhood Plan recently, even though there was a lot of interest. There is no opportunity to for tax paying residents to work with WDC to say where they would prefer housing, and which areas they would not like housing. WDC should show a greater interest in what residents want. Heathfield is being regarded as a service hub for local villages, and yet the ambulance station and police station sites are potential building plots, the bank have closed, and the doctors are full.	<p>The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC has a duty to support and assist Neighbourhood Plan groups. This includes providing advice and assistance.</p> <p>If the Town Council wish to progress a neighbourhood plan we will assist as set out in Section 7 of the SCI. However, we note that this is a decision to be taken at the Parish level.</p>	No change.
7.1	Broad Oak Residents Group - Miss Beryll Withers	On behalf of Broad Oak Residents Group I full support the comments made by Sarah Bushnell regarding Neighbourhood plans being compulsory throughout Wealden “ this would certainly enable greater level of involvement and buy-in to a new WDC Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan will give communities the chance to work alongside WDC and to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which reflects the needs and wants of their communities while fitting with the WDC Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan puts a community in a much stronger position should inappropriate housing developments be proposed, however it is not a means of stopping growth.	<p>The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC has a duty to support and assist Neighbourhood Plan groups. This includes providing advice and assistance.</p>	No change.

7.1	MR Miles Dempsey	<p>Localism Act 2011 - its time is very now, as Corona lockdown has changed many peoples perspectives and reordered priorities. Neighbourhood plans should be compulsory throughout Wealden, to put and keep WDC's finger remains firmly on local pulses. The formation of a new WDC Local Plan start-up gives Wealden residents a unique opportunity now to press for a Neighbourhood Plan to be made for each town or village. A Neighbourhood Plan gives necessary depth and breadth to communities, their chance to work alongside WDC and to help visualise and develop a Neighbourhood Plan reflecting realistic and deliverable needs and wants of their communities to fit in with the WDC Local Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan strongly positions and supports an initiative, it ensures initiatives are surefooted, ensuring inappropriate housing developments aren't proposed However it is not a means of stopping necessary growth, but focusing demand flowing from plans grounded in evidence, facts and segmented need prioritisation. Creating places in which people grow together and thrive, and are not buried alive in hopeless out of the way locations with no infrastructure. It is very concerning to observe that H&W Parish Council have shown themselves to be against a Neighbourhood Plan (and one can only conjecture what the motivations might be). They appear to have consistently denied Heathfield Residents their democratic rights to have such a plan, how can that be. This attitude must change now. Heathfield and all towns and villages in Wealden must be urged, and helped by WDC to deliver their own Neighbourhood Plan. It</p>	<p>The Localism Act 2011 provides the opportunity for Neighbourhood Planning. It is not in the gift of WDC to make Neighbourhood Planning compulsory. Where Neighbourhood Plan groups are in place WDC has a duty to support and assist Neighbourhood Plan groups. This includes providing advice and assistance.</p> <p>We agree. If the Town Council wish to progress a neighbourhood plan we will assist as set out in Section 7 of the SCI. However, we note that this is a decision to be taken at the Parish level.</p>	No change.
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		clear and in plain sight that Parish Councils are holding back their communities from making this important plan, WDC should see it as their mandate to support Neighbourhood Planning. How otherwise can they demonstrate sufficient information necessary to take into account supporting important decision making?		
7.2	Mrs D Harding	I refer you to the comment in 7.1	See above.	No change.
7.3	MR Ian Turner	More Public meetings!!	See above response.	No change.
7.3	Mr Ray Beer	More public meetings!	See above.	No change.

7.4	Tonbridge & Malling District Council	The document needs to be more explicit in terms of how consultation and preparation will work in the context of Covid19 for a process that is typically community based and thus usually involving of physical face to face contact/meetings/events. Not everyone will have access to technology and those that do may still experience struggles with access to information due to data usage/bandwidth that are becoming more common because of the move to home and remote working.	The Draft SCI was published ahead of the Government Guidance provided on 13th May 2020. The SCI will be updated to account for the latest Government Guidance including providing a section on temporary measures.	Updates have been made to clarify our COVID 19 response in line with new government guidance.
7.4	Mr Jonathan Walker	Most Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups have a website. The Wealden Neighbourhood Plan pages should contain a link to the websites of parishes that are preparing Neighbourhood Plans.	The Council already maintains a webpage for Wealden's Town and Parish Council's that provides access to Parish/Town Council websites. In addition, the Council does update the position of every Parish/Town Council with regards to Neighbourhood Planning within the Council's Authority Monitoring Report that reports on Neighbourhood Planning on an annual basis (see section 7). The Planning Policy team also regularly updates its Neighbourhood Planning webpages.	No change.
7.6	Mrs Carol Baker	Please do involve as many people as possible. If there was a 'measure of success' so that you know whether you have engaged with as many people as possible you would get more buy in from the community.	That is our aim and we are looking at what methods we can use to increase participation. This will be set out in our Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan.	No change.

7.7	Mr and Mrs Mike and Bernadette Robinson	Table 4 does not include Public Consultation events as part of the process, where the plan will be specific to a particular locality. This will not provide the community with any security that a public consultation event may be held. The council should commit to such an event to allow two way engagement on a range of local issues, and also follow up with a public engagement event prior to the Publication of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan stage. This is considered crucial to enable the local community who will be impacted considerably by the Neighbourhood Plan to be engaged in shaping the area in which they live and the policies pertinent to the local area. Hard copies of the publication of the Examiners report and of the Decision to adopt or refuse a neighbourhood Plan should also be available at the Council and particularly at the Parish or Town Council offices for local communities to see.	The decision to hold public consultation events on individual Neighbourhood Plans is in the gift of the Parish/Town Council that is producing the Neighbourhood Plan document. In addition, there is no legal requirement to provide hard copies of the publication of the decision to 'make' (adopt) or refuse a Neighbourhood Plan or the associated Examiners Report. Wealden District Council will seek to publish this on their website and Parish/Town Council's may wish to produce hard copies of these documents at their offices.	No change.
7.8	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	7.8 Is it appropriate to spend time discussing policy development during the actual process of neighbourhood planning. Surely policy should be clear before process starts.	The formation of planning policies for Neighbourhood Plans will depend on the options the Parish/Town Council wishes to pursue and would be based on the local evidence base, existing local planning policy (at the District level) and national planning policy/legislation. The Neighbourhood Plan process should be an iterative process where the aims/objectives of the Parish/Town Council should be translated into policy through an assessment of its evidence/policy options so it is a robust document that can successfully pass both an	No change.

			independent examination and referendum process. The process must involve both the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Council to work collaboratively as both plans progress.	
8	Mr Michael Gadd	It seems difficult to establish the amount of housing actually completed surely part of the planning process should be that developers notify WDC when each dwelling is completed a simple spreadsheet could easily applied from the granting of planning permission.	This is reported on in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report on an annual basis	No change.
8	East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council - Cllr Chria Magness	Could the AMR be published monthly rather than annually?	This comment is outside the scope of this consultation. However, the Council is only required by law to publish this document on an annual basis.	No change.
8	Mrs D Harding	To ensure community involvement the authority need to be more proactive...this consultation in itself and necessity to read background documentation has consumed 8 hours of my time and would have been impossible for many people to take part in due to around 20% of the population having dyslexiathe authority need to facilitate more face to face engagement and use more simple language and more info graphics if there is a genuine desire to engage more	We intend to hold public consultation events during the Local Plan process as provided in the SCI. We will also aim to ensure our documents are concise, accessible and as easy to read as possible.	No change.

8	Laughton Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	It is frustrating for our small Parish Council if planning application deadlines do not allow discussion at a monthly parish council meeting in public. The 21 day comment deadline means this happens quite often. It is often highly useful to hear comments from the applicant and parishioners.	<p>The Council has a legal duty to consult with Town / Parish councils. A period of 3 weeks is provided for comment before a decision is made as set out in legislation in the Development Management Procedure Order.</p> <p>The Council may, at their discretion, take into account comments that are made after the closing date, but has no obligation to do so. The timing of Parish meetings is a matter for the Parish Council to consider. In practice, a longer period is often afforded to receive and consider parish comments, but the Council has duty to process applications in a strict timeline which does not mean it cannot formally engage for longer periods without significant loss of performance.</p>	No change
8	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	Documents need to be published in a manner that takes into account the local needs and should not just rely on electronic/social media routes. Pre application advice that includes the district council should also be published with the applications to ensure that discussions are transparent.	The Council has complied with requirements provided in the relevant legislation by publishing applications and associated documents on the Council's website. The Council can also confirm that there is no requirement to publish its pre-application advice on its Planning Register.	No change.

8.2	Mr Mervyn Reed	It would be useful to have the important criteria described in this document. This could include reasons for officer delegation, reasons for planning committee being required to deliberate. Where numbers of objections, both neighbour and general public are received, to what extent number and quality of objections is a determinate on where ultimate decisions are taken.	This is set out in another document known as the Council's Scheme of Delegation (see section 7.1, from p. 35).The main reasons (amongst others) an application goes to committee are; if a ward councillor has requested it, if there are 3+ objections, if an objection is raised by a parish council, if the development is likely to cause significant local concern or if it is a major development outside of the development boundary.	No change.
8.2	Mrs Carol Baker	Why then was the Uckfield Hospital not consulted with regard to the development that is going to be so close to the hospital and wards that have near end of life people in situ. The solution seems to be 'large trees' for screening. Blocking out their light is the worst thing that could happen for some of the residents	All development proposals in the District are consulted upon as set out in the SCI and in line with our legal duties.	No change.
8.2	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	We suggest stating which applications cannot be determined under delegated powers, or at least providing a link to the delegation scheme.	Agreed.	Footnote reference added to provide link to the Scheme of Delegation.

8.2	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	<p>8.20 /8.21 These delegated powers should be transparent and clear for all consultees. No consultee should find out that these have been changed and retrospectively applied to outstanding applications. It is not acceptable that changes are not notified and consultees cannot be expected to check daily or each time they plan to comment on an application. Planning Committee Meetings have also been changed to ensure that WDC receive them in advance. There is no public speaking allowed at Planning Committee meetings. We believe that this erodes the democratic process. The reasons given (someone being difficult or out spoken on line, someone accessing the meeting and being disruptive) are not valid given this could more easily happen in an open public meeting and it is easier to eject the person from the meeting online. Watching the opening of the Planning Committee South meetings it is stated that representations with abusive comments in general or against a member will not be forwarded on to members. It is not clear who makes these decisions or if the respondent will be advised that their representation will not be forwarded. Representations that are too long will not be forwarded to members. Again, it is not clear who will make this decision. Whilst we do not condone the behaviour mentioned, but these representations should be redacted and sent on and ones that are deemed to be too long should also be sent on so as not to erode the democratic process. In a face to face public meeting the members would hear the first 2 or 3 minutes (as appropriate) at which point the member</p>	<p>Both delegated powers for the determination of planning applications and planning committee procedures fall outside the scope of the SCI. However, your comments are noted.</p>	No change.
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		controlling the timer would stop them. This process is based on an assumption that committee members will read all documentation, but this cannot be guaranteed. Reading out the representation ensures a democratic process and that resident and consultee voices are heard. We believe that the timing rules for speaking at a planning committee should be increased to 5 minutes and 2 or 3 minutes appears to be designed to severely limit what a speaker can say. Many residents do not speak like this for a living and are nervous and feel passionate about what they have to say. The councils standing orders should also limit the maximum time for a meeting. To expect a member to sit for hours (sometimes 6-8 hours) listening to representations for major applications erodes the democratic process.		
8.2	Mr Darren Manuel	Again, AONBs need to be identified on the map.	The purpose of this map is to detail the areas the two planning committees cover to explain how	No change.

			engagement works in different locations in the District.	
8.2	Mr Michael Gadd	All maps documented by WDC need to include AONB as this forms a major part our district and is protected under the NPPF and is probably WDC biggest asset for Employment (Tourism, Farming, Forestry the list goes on) , Community Health and Wellbeing both physical and mental.	I can confirm that the Council's online mapping does enable the user to add in the High Weald AONB and a number of planning designations. The Council in preparation of its Local Plan will continue to publish Proposal Maps for its Local Plan that includes all relevant planning designations.	No change.
8.2	Mr Chris Elphick	As I've commented previously, it would be quite informative for applicants & interested parties if there were a map here and on the website that actually included details of the parishes (or wards of parishes where appropriate) that comprise the North & South areas. P.S. Is 'Committee's' a deliberate mistake?	<p>I can confirm that the Council's online mapping does enable the user to identify planning applications, wards and parishes. In addition, if the user is particularly interested in a planning application, through the planning application search function the user is able to identify the expected date of the committee scheduled.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.22 of the SCI also confirms that where people have commented on the application, the Council will write to inform them when and where the application will be considered and the arrangements for public speaking.</p> <p>The spelling error is noted. Thank you for spotting this.</p>	Change to spelling of Committees on Figure 5.
8.4	Mrs D Harding	Statutory requirements should be viewed as the minimum...they are the law...surely this statement should be more than thisto obey the law is not enough on its own...many other planning authorities are doing so much more to fulfil their	The SCI sets out additional methods we will undertake above and beyond the legal requirements. The Council also exercise discretion on certain cases, for example where public	No change.

		community obligations and to engage residents	holidays can limit the chance for comment. Exceptional circumstances have been accommodated and will continue to be.	
8.5	Mr Mervyn Reed	My experience of a current planning application WD/2020/0311, was that no consultation was undertaken either with me or my neighbours. Our first involvement was the planning application being posted through our letterbox. Perhaps more than encouragement is required such as active incentive to consult or disincentive not to.	The way in which the Council consults on planning applications is set out in Appendix C.	No change.
8.5	Tonbridge & Malling District Council	We feel there may need to be greater thought given to how the more traditional methods used by developers such as exhibitions will work going forward in respect of the ongoing pandemic and social distancing guidelines.	We disagree, the text in the SCI provides sufficient flexibility to allow for a variety of methods to be used by developers to engage meaningfully with people at pre-app stage taking into account any social distancing restrictions.	No change.
8.5	Mr Ray Beer	In any planning process there should be public meetings between residents, developers and WDC planning department to hear concerns directly. All communications should be in clear English and not planning quasi language Full surveys should be taken on all residents There should be full transparency on all decisions. Planning committees should have a greater range of councillors from the area concerned.	The applications that raise particular concerns are already taken to a public meeting in the form of a planning committee where residents, planners and developers concerns are raised. We agree that communications should be easy to read, using plain English and avoiding jargon. On a case by case basis, development management undertake a local engagement with Parish Council's through pre-application 'protocol' meetings.	No change.

8.5	Mr Sheldon Kenton	It feels to me that almost all development applications are treated by the applicant as hostile€• and very little pre-consultation goes on. That which does seems to be between the developer and the council. My view is that unless community consultation takes place the council should be able to classify a development as hostile and, subject to taking the temperature of local feelings require a higher standard of proof of benefit before allowing approval. The current presumption of approval is clearly unfair to the community and tilts the balance in favour of well informed and connected landowners and developer.	There are no provisions in the current planning system to allow for this. However, we do encourage developers to consult with local communities.	No change.
8.6	Mr & Mrs Richard & Madeleine Judge	The definition of consultation should be extended beyond events and meetings as these seem to be carried out infrequently and at inconvenient times so residents get very few opportunities to see and comment on applications. Events are inadequately advertised so attendance is often very low. There needs to be an extension into social media and web based consultations where plans can be viewed and commented on over an extended period. Public Consultation events should only be considered valid if they get a reasonable percentage of local residents opinion. Consultation results must be time limited as they only take a snapshot of opinion at the time and do not necessarily represent the situation and public opinion when the application is submitted. Quite often applications appear on the Wealden web site where they claim public consultation has been carried out and the consultation was restricted to a two hours session on a wet and windy winters Wednesday at 10:30am that	<p>We agree that the use of social media and online consultation tools increase the accessibility and allows more people to engage with planning proposals/decisions.</p> <p>We cannot prevent developers from submitting outline/reserve matters applications as they have a right to do so.</p> <p>The level of attendance of publicised engagement events cannot be used as a measure to discard the effort to engage. However, officers would have regard to the reasonableness of the</p>	No change.

		<p>happened 10 years before the application was finally submitted. Applications need to be made in full and reflect the proposals put forward in the consultation with limitations on the use of reserved matters to push through significant changes to developments after permission has been granted.</p>	<p>opportunity to attend such exhibition events in relation to timing and location.</p>	
8.6	Mr Darren Manuel	I concur with the points made by Mr and Mrs Judge	Noted. See response to Mr & Mrs Judge above.	No change.

8.6	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	<p>My experience is that developers do not hold any consultation for a planned development until the plans are well advanced and typically a consultation is held after or just before the planning application is submitted with no information released beforehand to the communities likely to be affected. Developers will have benefited from pre-planning advice and numerous meetings and discussions with the Planning Case Officer taking place over many months and often up to a year. Neighbours and residents nearby - usually learn about an application only after it is submitted or the consultation has been launched - are left at a complete disadvantage and faced with having to develop and present their objections in only a matter of a few weeks. Therefore - proposals for larger developments should be notified to neighbours and residents living nearby who would be affected by it as soon as the developer or landowner starts up discussions with WDC Planning Dept. This would put residents / neighbours on a level playing field with developers / landowners.</p>	<p>We engage with residents to let them know where development is likely to happen in the future through the local plan process.</p> <p>We strongly encourage developers to engage with communities before putting in planning applications. However, we are unable to make developers undertake early consultation.</p>	No change.
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8.6	Mr John Bailey	<p>Developers community consultation this should be transparent with a clear statement of Community Involvement based on best practice for Pre-Application Community Involvement. Currently it is felt that for Example Facebook is being used to make selective or misleading statements and pictures to get data and answers some developers want. MyAlert system is a good addition and should apply to all Councillors at all levels where applications affect their wards. Also clear public details as to the process of calling in applications for the Planning Committees decision. Planning Protocols need to be clearly documented and stated. Given the confusion at a recent planning committee meeting related to a deferred decision. To ensure the highest standards of probity in the performance of its planning function. Together with an appropriate quality management system. To enable the public to ascertain that the correct process has taken place, and not maladministration. The current strict control on public statements gives the impression that the Area Planning Committee is not interested in the content. Councillors should be able to decide by a majority vote as to whether they wish to hear more from a councillor or a member of the public if they run out of time it should not be the Chairman's decision only. The same could apply to clarification questions to the statement maker from members of the committee. If this was adopted it may stop the impression that the decision has not already been made in a pre- or group meeting before they have heard all the evidence.</p>	<p>As the text makes clear, we support community consultation by developers on their schemes at pre-app stage.</p> <p>This is set out in another document known as the Council's Scheme of Delegation (see section 7.1, from p. 35).</p> <p>Planning Committee procedures fall outside of the scope of the SCI.</p>	No change.
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8.6	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	The term "Significant Development" should be clearly defined. Maybe as the percentage increase in dwellings for a locality. e.g. 5% Developers should consult meaningfully with the public at an early stage in the Planning Process rather than residents being presented with a "Fait accompli" The meetings should have a true record of comments not a filtered version from the developer.	Significant development was defined by the Localism Bill and includes residential developments of more than 200 homes or where the site area is 4 ha or more; and any non-residential developments providing 10,000 sqm or more of new floorspace, or with a site area of 2 ha or more.	Footnote added to define significant development.
8.6	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	This paragraph should explain what the phrase "significant development" means in practice. Additionally or alternatively it should be defined in the Glossary. We suggest that the explanation should at a minimum include any development outside the development boundaries, any development of 10 or more dwellings (in or outside a boundary) and any development in, or that will directly affect, an AONB or other protected area.	Significant development was defined by the Localism Bill and includes residential developments of more than 200 homes or where the site area is 4 ha or more; and any non-residential developments providing 10,000 sqm or more of new floorspace, or with a site area of 2 ha or more.	Footnote added to define significant development.
8.6	Mr Jonathan Walker	The term significant development should be defined in a clear and specific manner. The second sentence of this section states: Such consultation methods could include community consultation events. This should be changed to must include or at the very least should include. These consultation events are often cited by developers to positively support their proposals and to indicate that they have listened to the community and changed their plans to take the views of the community into account. Our experience is that this is seldom the case. The developers generally ignore all negative comments and any changes they make are superficial and disingenuous. We recommend that all such consultations are recorded so that proof	There are no provisions in the current planning system to allow for this. The Council does not have a say in relation to developers consultation methods or the times / days in which consultation may take place. However, the Council will continue to encourage developers to engage with residents in a meaningful way, and look at opportunities to encourage use of a consistent process, where possible Significant development was defined by the Localism Bill and includes residential developments of more than	Footnote added to define significant development.

		of the balance of views is available to any planning process and that developers claims are challenged when they use consultation events with bias.	200 homes or where the site area is 4 ha or more; and any non-residential developments providing 10,000 sqm or more of new floorspace, or with a site area of 2 ha or more.	
8.6	Mrs D Harding	Agree with comments made Having been impacted directly by the major planning application by Glessons for over 400 properties off Station Road in south Hailsham the developers engagement and consultation was poor and although we responded we did not get a response or acknowledgement...frankly it felt tick box	Noted. The Council will continue to encourage developers to engage with residents in a meaningful way.	No change.
8.6	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	8.6 identifies several options for consulting the residents in the light of a potential major application. These should be fairly executed. For example, there should be sufficient time for residents to reply (they should not have to reply the same day in order to get the response back by the stated deadline). The online consultation should not ask for more personal details than a postal leaflet so as not to put people off using the online option. The questions asked should not be different to those on the leaflet which discriminates against residents not using the online method. Every resident should receive a	There are no provisions in the current planning system to allow for this. The Council does not have a say in relation to developers consultation methods or the times / days in which consultation may take place. However, the Council will continue to encourage developers to engage with residents in a meaningful way.	No change.

		postal leaflet as any development affects the whole village not just immediate neighbours. Tactics like this should not be considered as meeting the requirements for consultation of the community.		
8.7	Stop Vines Corner Group - Mrs Sarah Bushnell	My experience is that landowners / developers are sometimes reluctant to display the Site Notice near the application site and even when this lapse is notified to WDC Planning Dept. they do not seem keen or willing to take this matter up with the landowner or developer. Thus for many weeks a development site can remain invisible to passers by either because no notice is displayed or it may be displayed in a position which is not easily seen. Publicising applications in local newspapers is not effective nowadays they are no longer purchased / read to the extent that they were even 10 years ago. Those applications should be publicised on Facebook and Twitter and on the local town and village websites in order to reach out to and inform a much wider range of people.	The SCI sets out the Council's approach to consultation and engagement rather than developers / landowners approaches. This is a matter for the developer / landowner. As the text makes clear, we support community consultation by developers on their schemes at pre-app stage.	No change.
8.7	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	The Council should also stipulate that public meetings should be held at a time that will enable as many working people as possible to attend.	Noted. The Council will continue to encourage developers to engage with residents in a meaningful way.	No change.

8.7	Mrs D Harding	The one Public meeting with the developers Of a major development in Hailsham was held during office hours meaning no one who worked could attendhardly engagement	Noted. The Council does not have a say in relation to developers consultation methods or the times / days in which consultation may take place. However, the Council will continue to encourage developers to engage with residents in a meaningful way.	No change.
8.8	Mr Ray Beer	To date there have been no public meetings between developers and residents. This must happen for any new development before it is accepted into any plan.	The Council encourages developers to engage with residents (see para 8.7).	No change.
8.8	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	We are aware of instances of applications not being posted on the website until only a few days of the consultation period are left, and in one instance only after the period had ended. There should not be more than 48 hours between entering an application on the register and posting it.	All applications that are required to be subject to public consultation will be available on the website, which is the planning register, during the consultation period. Those application types that are not subject to public consultation (e.g. Screening Opinion requests, applications for Prior Approval consideration) may only be added to the register once decisions are made. This is to ensure there is a public record of the formal decision, even though that decision is not subject to consultations, as set out in relevant legislation.	No change
8.8	East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council - Cllr Chria Magness	Local bodies involved in Applicant of Developer consultations should publish outcomes of such consultations on the same planning portal as the application as this should not simply be left to Applicants/Developers to announce later.	All consultation responses to formal planning applications are provided on the Council's Planning Register. The Council can also confirm that there is no requirement to publish its pre-application advice on its Planning Register.	No change.

8.8	Mr Chris Elphick	<p>Over the last few years, quite a few applications (often very significant ones) have been 'parked' for years not just months, awaiting further processing towards a determination, due to difficulties and uncertainties arising in connection with aspects of the withdrawn proposed Local Plan and other external influences, and COV-19 may be having a similar effect. While agents and parish councils have to some extent been kept informed through their regular panel meetings with officers, neighbours who usually stand to also be affected have only been kept in the loop to a very limited degree, directly or via general information on the website. Meaningful improvements in this respect would be a major step for Community Involvement and this Statement could undertake to pursue this. As an example, where progress of a major application is delayed by more than say 2 months beyond its target determination date, a brief but succinct explanation of the 'state of play' could helpfully be entered in the website by the case officer and updated when appropriate.</p>	<p>It is unfortunate that decisions on some applications have been delayed, due to some very specific circumstances. The Council have sought to update parties when those delays are overcome, seeking additional views from Parish/Town Councils, consultees and neighbours, as seen in letters sent on all relevant applications in January 2020, following the outcome of the Local Plan examination. It is not possible to seek to undertake this on all delayed applications, due to the volume of work associated. It is also hoped that these delays will become less frequent. We are currently working through any delays caused by the Covid 19 pandemic changes, and are making good progress as we do so.</p> <p>The Development Management Team are now proactively encouraging local residents to subscribe to My Alerts so they do become aware of any updates over the life of the application. Indeed this will be the principal means of dealing with amendments to plans.</p>	No change.
8.8	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	8.8 as commented before it is not suitable for the communities that details for applications are only notified via online methods.	The Council has complied with requirements provided in the relevant legislation by publishing applications and associated documents on the Council's website. The Council will also consult on planning applications in line with Appendix C that includes	No change.

			some non-online methods.	
8.9	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	8.9 In order to work with Towns and Parish councils who may only meet once a month it would be appropriate for the weekly planning list to set the timeframes for the return of comments. Currently the request for comments is random according to the date of validation of the application and when it is emailed to the Parish Clerk. There are constant misunderstandings regarding the date comments are due to different dates being advertised online for the Parish councils, online for residents, dates reported on the site notice etc. This would allow for more efficient Parish council planning meetings and less confusion for residents. There is also no reason why the consultation period should be 21 days for a statutory consultee but 28 days from the rest of the community. To have 28 days for both should also be more efficient for the District council in planning when applications should be decided or go to committee.	The Council has a legal duty to consult with Town / Parish councils. A period of 3 weeks is provided for comment before a decision is made as set out in legislation within the General Development Procedure Order. Different dates often result as site notices cannot be posted on the same day as these first electronic consultations are undertaken. However, comments received up to the last available consultation date (whichever is the latter) will be considered and Parish/Town Council may wish to seek extensions of time, where needed. The Council may, at their discretion, accept these and take into account comments that are made after the closing date, but has no obligation to do so.	No change
8.9	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Please add a link to this list to the My Alerts email.	The Council will also consult on planning applications in line with Appendix C that includes some non-online methods.	No change.

8.1	Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	8.10 publicising planning applications: request that the dates on site notices match the dates on the planning web site for the deadline for comments to be received by. Presently there are often 4 different dates: the site notice, the date for official consultees, the date for the public and the date on the planning website. It would be helpful if these deadlines could all be the same as it is confusing at present	Noted. This falls outside the scope of the SCI.	No change.
8.1	Mr Howard Michael Haffner	8.10 I have seen no advertising of major developments in Stone Cross being advertised in the local paper- but cannot prove that this has not been done- but am doubtful. 8.14 In view of the fact that Parish Councils meet only every month, the consultation period should be 35 not 21 days to account for this. (I am a parish councillor, but speak only as a resident as we have been unable to hold meetings during the corona virus emergency)	<p>The Council has outlined in Appendix C of the SCI how it will consult in relation to specific types of application.</p> <p>The Council has a legal duty to consult with Town / Parish councils. A period of 3 weeks is provided for comment before a decision is made, as set out in legislation.</p> <p>The Council may, at its discretion, take into account comments that are made after the closing date, but has no obligation to do so. Overall the Council operate with checks to ensure the statutory requirements are met when validating applications including publicity measures. The default is not to issue the decision before the 21 day period lapses.</p>	No change.
8.11	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	Please see comment on paragraph 8.9.	See above. .	No change.

8.11	Mr Jonathan Walker	The My Alerts system is good but could be improved. It appears to limit notifications to a small radius around the registered postcode. If you are interested in knowing what is happening in your parish and the neighbouring parishes, it is of limited value. The system should be extended to offer a choice of ranges or a selection of parishes of interest rather than a postcode.	<p>Comment and support noted.</p> <p>The 'My Alerts' system is only a single method of consulting communities as described in appendix C of the SCI.</p> <p>Where a party is interested in planning at a Parish level, the Council would encourage discussions with the relevant parish Council – many will list the applications that they are due to consider on their website, or notice boards and some will allow public speaking at their regular planning meetings</p>	No change.
8.11	Mrs D Harding	Use this system and think it's useful	Support for 'My Alerts' Noted.	No change.
8.14	Mrs D Harding	Sadly a number of consultations are not notified to effected residents in advance of the 21 day consultation. When in Hailsham we received a letter through the post that arrived 10 days after consultation had started...this need consideration by the authority and impacted residents of major applications should be allowed the full 21 days	<p>Consultation procedures are as set out in legislation, with 21 days being given for comment. The 21 day consultation period will sometimes be longer than that set out in initial letters, as dates on site notices and within press adverts may be later. Residents are urged to use the website to ascertain the latest available date for comments. Individuals can also sign up to the My Alerts system, to be notified of applications in a specific area. Where the date for comment is reset, this will be noted through My Alerts, and can be seen on the website.</p>	No change

8.15	Mr Mervyn Reed	My experience was that consultation with the parish council was non-existent. The application was received and decided on the same date by the parish council. The reason given was that the closing date for consultee responses was before the next scheduled meeting of the parish council. No opportunity was offered for objections to be raised although the applicant was allowed to state his case. Surely it should be possible to coordinate consulted timescales better so this situation does not occur. These comments also apply to 8.14 above.	The Council has a legal duty to consult with Town / Parish councils. A period of 3 weeks is provided for comment before a decision is made. Individuals can sign up to the planning weekly list and 'my alerts' here. This will ensure you are notified of relevant planning applications in your area. It is for Town and Parish Councils to decide the frequency of their meetings to ensure both a timely response and suitable time for consideration. Whilst not encouraged, on occasion Parish/Town Clerks can advise case officers of an intended date for comment falling outside the 21 days. On occasion, this can be accepted.	No change.
8.16	Mr Mervyn Reed	See my comments in 8.14 above.	See comment above.	No change.
8.17	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	8.17 We agree that offensive or defamatory comments should not be published. These should be redacted and should not preclude valid comments from being included.	Comment noted. Paragraph 8.18 confirms that where such defamatory statements are received, the relevant Development Management Team Leader will invite the author to re-issue the correspondence with the subject comments omitted.	No change.
8.19	Mr Mervyn Reed	If Parish councils have an important role, they must ensure that all interested parties are able to state their case before they make their decision.	This is a matter for individual parish councils rather than the District Council.	No change.

8.19	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	Responses from all consultees must be obtained before Major Planning Applications come before Planning Committee. Frequently key consultee reports are missing or have not been updated. Decisions should be made with the complete information available.	The Council will consult with all consultees at an early stage of the planning application process and will be given 21 days to reply to the local planning authority. The Council, after this point, is able to provide recommendations for planning applications for planning committee, or indeed make delegated decisions on planning applications. If reporting to Committee, officer updates are also provided on any consultee or other representations received up until 24 hours before the meeting itself takes place. It is not in the Council's gift to ensure that all consultees provide responses on every planning application. However, on occasion, where the committee feel it necessary, resolutions are made subject to no adverse comment from a consultee who has yet to respond before Committee date.	No change
8.19	Mr Chris Elphick	I agree with the foregoing comments. There are currently some very substantial applications coming before the Committees that have the potential to have a profound effect on neighbouring communities and recommendations and decisions must be made with the benefit of all consultee responses. Further, it should be ensured that all responses, internal & external, requested or invited, are included on the website (with amenity groups & other organisations' responses clearly labelled rather than merely lumped in anonymously with neighbour	The Council will consult with all consultees at an early stage of the planning application process and will be given 21 days to reply to the local planning authority. The Council, after this point, is able to provide recommendations for planning applications for planning committee, or indeed make delegated decisions on planning applications. If reporting to Committee, officer updates are also provided on any consultee or other	No change.

		responses).	representations received up until 24 hours before the meeting itself takes place. This ensures all responses received are considered. It is not in the Council's gift to ensure that all consultees provide responses on every planning application. However, on occasion, where the committee feel it necessary, resolutions are made subject to no adverse comment from a consultee who has yet to respond before Committee date.	
8.21	Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	8.21 public speaking scheme at Planning Committee: this needs to be amended to reflect how things are currently working during Covid 19 special arrangements. Perhaps the para should state the normal arrangements and the Covid 19 arrangements. Just to note, there are concerns that the current Covid arrangements do not fully enable the public and parish councils' democratic rights to be met	Agreed. An additional sentence has been included after para 8.23 to explain this.	No change.

8.21	Village Concerns - Mrs Kate Richardson	Virtual Planning Meetings. The timescale for Public speaking submissions is far too short. Whilst Planning meetings are held virtually the Agenda should be published at least a 14 days before the Planning meeting . This would allow the Public to prepare and submit their presentations and overcome any possible technical difficulties when sending to Wealden. The meetings are limited to 4 hours by Microsoft Teams. Too many items are put on the agenda and the Chair is under pressure to move things on too quickly. . Normal Planning Meetings These are held on a weekday morning meaning anyone I full time work would find it almost impossible to attend. The atmosphere is not conducive for people to speak. A more encouraging approach would not come amiss. Planning Decisions Each application should be judged on its merits alone. Government Guidance states that decisions can only be made in relation to development plans and national planning policy. No decision should be made based on the likelihood of the decision being appealed and the ensuing costs. Planning officers and members of the Planning Committee should not be pointing this out in the discussion.as it is prejudicial. Councillors are there to ensure the right homes are built in the right places.	The determination of individual planning applications and planning committee procedures fall outside of the scope of the SCI. However, your comments are noted.	No change.
8.22	MR Ian Turner	Seems to me that the PCN want to push all the planning building of houses on the overcrowded south !	This comment is not relevant to the content of the SCI and public engagement.	No change.

8.22	Mrs D Harding	<p>I have a few experiences of Planning committee south and they are not positive. Often the committee are watching the time limit and interrupt speakers to advise them of their limit mid 3 minutes and its intimidating for some people. Also certain members of the panel have made outrageous comments and displayed nothing short of rudeness to some residents....who they should remember they are elected to represent and public money is used to pay their allowances. A little more consideration and humanity would not go amiss and there is no need for the chair to interrupt speakers in their allotted time slot when they can see the countdown time limit perfectly well.</p>	<p>Planning Committee procedures fall outside of the scope of the SCI. However, your comments are noted.</p>	No change.
8.22	Mrs Debra Green	<p>My experience of WDC Planning and PC Planning meetings has proved to be very frustrating. The Committee are watching the time limit (three minutes is sometimes not enough). It is intimidating for people who are not used to public speaking. Panel members have been seen to be looking at their phones, and at one PC meeting, the Chair advised Committee members who hadn't even seen the relevant papers, to vote against a Neighbourhood Plan! There is no come back, as discussion of a point is not allowed. It's like watching a rugby or football match where only one team can have the ball! Panel members have shown rudeness to some residents and even another Panel member, who left the room. They are elected to represent us, and our money is used to pay their allowances. I would also like to know Planning Committee members actually visit some sites where the AONB or very large developments are being discussed so that they</p>	<p>The determination of individual planning applications and planning committee procedures fall outside of the scope of the SCI. However, your comments are noted.</p>	No change.

		can literally see the lie of the land. If they don't live near a proposed development, how do they know what is at stake?		
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8.22	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	8.22 we believe that this process should have a longer lead time (by announcing the agenda earlier) for the meeting as many people who would like to be involved in making representations are unable to do so because the meeting happens during the working day without enough lead time to negotiate the time off with their employer. We also feel that no application should be put forward to the planning committee before the consultation period has ended and the officer report should not be written until after the consultation has ended. We would advocate that training available for members should also include representatives from Town and Parish Councils. The outcome of a planning committee meeting will be permission granted, permission refused or the decision deferred. Where a deferral takes place it should be made clear to members that the application can be discussed in full when it is brought back to the committee unless a clear resolution is recorded to state otherwise, however to grant or refuse part of an application and refer part of it gives the impression of eroding the democratic process. Members of the second meeting may be different to the first. Members should understand that even when they vote for a local plan to be submitted for consultation this does not necessarily mean that an application should automatically be granted, nor should it be tabled that to not grant the application will undermine the plan. Applications should be considered for their suitability as presented.	The determination of individual planning applications and planning committee procedures fall outside of the scope of the SCI. However, your comments are noted.	No change.
8.24	Polegate Town Council - Chris Hale	8.24 and 8.25 Any planning appeals by members of the public going through the High Court would presumably be costly and hence deter appeals,	This is set out in national legislation and we have no power to amend this.	No change.

		thereby denying the public to have any meaningful say or power in the decision making process.		
8.25	Mr Mervyn Reed	This seems very one sided. Why shouldn't a member of public have the right to appeal? If this is not a national planning policy then Wealden should consider amending this.	This is set out in national planning legislation. We have no power to amend.	No change.
8.25	Wealden Green Party - Mr Ian Tysh	This paragraph states the law accurately but the law is unfair. At the least, those who have been consulted as of right should have a right of appeal to an inspector. Will the Council raise this with the local MPs and the relevant minister?	This is set out in national planning legislation. We have no power to amend. . We have no plans to raise this with local MPs or the relevant minister.	No change.
8.25	Mr Sheldon Kenton	That sounds like a very expensive route for the public to have to take and tilts the process in favour of the applicant and also makes it far more likely that we see multiple applications, refusals and appeals for the same site. Why shouldn't the applicant have the same barriers to appear as the public?	This is set out in national planning legislation. We have no power to amend.	No change.
8.27	Mrs D Harding	Its worth also being clear that the SoS can evoke section 77 and determine an application	This is set out in 8.29	No change.
8.29	MR Ian Turner	Please do this early sometimes you only give people short notice!	The paragraph relates to publicising an Inspector's decision and we will aim to publicise appeal decision notices as soon as we can.	No change.
8.3	Ninfield Parish Council - Mrs Jackie Scarff	8.30 This is a time consuming process for anyone to interrogate the WDC data as they would be expected to search through planning committee agendas in order to find the information WDC should send out all appeal decisions to the whole district for information.	As noted at paragraph 8.29, the Council will, once a decision has been made via appeal, the decision notice will be sent to the appellant, the Council and any interested person who has requested a copy of the decision. In addition to this, the Council makes such information available on its website.	No change.

8.31	Mr Chris Elphick	I'm not sure why this says that comments 'may & can be made public'? Surely & hopefully in practice the Dept. doesn't pick and chose which responses it will publicise, so this should more appropriately read 'can & will'. As well as referring to redaction of personal information, perhaps it would be useful to re-assure respondents further by advising that it is currently Council's practice to delete neighbour objections from the website once a decision is reached on the application.	The Council will not delete any comments on planning applications. This solely relates to paragraphs 8.17 and 8.18 of the SCI.	No change.
9	Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council - Mrs Fiona Hensher	Apart from the comments above, the rest of the document is sound	Noted and thank you for taking part in the Consultation.	No change.
9	Tonbridge & Malling District Council	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft Wealden Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). In summary we feel that the document is not clear enough on how consultation will remain inclusive and accessible in response to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, the effects of which will likely remain for a number of months/years. There are significant implications for traditional methods of consultation that have not been fully explored in the document. There is now an even greater need to ensure that everyone can have their say, including those most vulnerable.	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft Wealden Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). In summary we feel that the document is not clear enough on how consultation will remain inclusive and accessible in response to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, the effects of which will likely remain for a number of months/years. There are significant implications for traditional methods of consultation that have not been fully explored in the document. There is now an even greater need to ensure that everyone can have their say, including those most vulnerable.	No change.

9	Mr John Bailey	<p>Area Plan Meetings with major development on the agenda should be held in the Area they are in and in the evening. There should be a clear planning protocol document based of public consultation. Ground Rules as to how things will be done and applied so that any issues of maladministration can be clearly identified. The practice of Councils agreeing to confidentiality clauses in option sales of their own land which contains details related to housing development which was followed through by planning, frustrates any proper consultation. A protocol document should also deal with this issue. It also raised questions of transparency for example with Pine Grove Development, where two Councillors representing that area on the committee were disenfranchised for reasons such as hospital appointment, and declarations of interest, and where one vote carried the decision. As the land was owned by the council consultation could have been had on whether the flats should be "common hold" or "leasehold" given management and housing needs issues and management charges related to flat types of developments.</p>	<p>We intend to consult on the Local Plan throughout the District.</p> <p>The option of meeting in other parts of the District has been considered at length in the past. The logistics of moving staff and facilities, including those to facilitate the webcasting function make this an unviable proposal. Clearly however, having the webcast, even during the Covid 19 office closure has meant that any party can view the committee meetings from any location and at any time of day to suit them.</p> <p>This falls outside the scope of the draft SCI document</p>	No change.
9	Mr Michael Gadd	<p>Your data is often buried and very hard to find example of this is housing register with the numbers by the different categories. A simple data ling clearly indexed would again give the community that they are involved.</p>	<p>The Housing Register is a list of those in need of social housing. It is not publically available.</p>	No change.