

## **Statement of Community Involvement**

### **Addendum July 2020 Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Submission Consultation**

The District Council's current Statement of Community Involvement states at paragraph 2.31 that:

- 2.31 Once the town /parish council has submitted its plan to the District Council in accordance with the Regulation 15, the District Council will publicise the plan for consultation for a period of not less than 6 weeks (Regulation 16). The following methods will be used:
- Publication on SSDC's website [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk);
  - Request that the town/parish council display the notice with details of how to comment on the parish notice board/parish website / magazine and at local venues they consider will raise awareness of the proposal locally;
  - SSDC to send email / letter to adjoining parishes and ward members;
  - SSDC to send email / letter to relevant parish and ward member/s;
  - Advertise in the local press; and
  - Any 'consultation body' that is referred to in the consultation statement submitted by the town and parish council in accordance with Regulation 15 will be notified via email / letter that the plan proposal has been received.

However, since the publication of revised Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup> by the Government, the following paragraphs should be appended to the Statement until further notice.

2.31a - Since the introduction of restrictions on movements as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the inspection of hard copies of Submission Documents has not been possible. The Government's revised Planning Practice Guidance makes clear that, even during the current restrictions, authorities should make any temporary amendments that are necessary to allow plan-making to progress; and that they continue to promote effective community engagement by means which are reasonably practicable.

2.31b - In response, SSDC will continue to carry out the steps in paragraph 2.31 but will liaise with the Parish or Town Council to agree how best hard copies of the documents can be made available where normal options such as a library or local shop are not available due to the Covid-19 pandemic. SSDC will also encourage Parish and Town Councils to use their local knowledge to disseminate information about the Submission Documentation and consultation (especially if they know someone who may not have access to the Internet) through informal networks or interest groups and social media, or using the telephone where this is feasible. Individuals will also be allowed to nominate an advocate to share views on their behalf.

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<sup>1</sup> [Plan-making - GOV.UK \(13 May 2020\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437212/plan-making-2020.pdf)