

Yarcombe and Marsh Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation Statement



Consultation Statement – Yarcombe & Marsh Neighbourhood Plan

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Preface

This Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Yarcombe & Marsh Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to conform to the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should:

- (a) Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan
- (b) Explain how they were consulted
- (c) Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted
- (d) Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan

Part 1 of this Consultation Statement summarises all statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken with the community in developing the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The aims of the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were to:

- 'front-load' the consultation, so that the Plan could be informed by the views of local people and other stakeholders from the earliest stage
- ensure that consultation events and drop-in sessions enabled people 'have their say' and get feedback on the emerging plan at key points in the process and when decisions were required
- engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of events and communication techniques
- ensure that the results of consultation and updates on the neighbourhood plan were provided for local people as soon as possible after consultation events through the most appropriate and widely read media.

Part 1: Community Consultation Statement

Yarcombe Parish Council was keen to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan was a community-led document. The Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established from community volunteers with Parish Council representation and the widest range of people and groups have tried to be engaged.

Consultation was undertaken by the Steering Group working to a strategy and programme that was prepared, with some guidance from our consultants, Stuart Todd Associates Ltd.

Consultation events and surveys took place at the following stages in the neighbourhood planning process:

Yarcombe Neighbourhood plan – Consultation Events		
Event	Dates	Purpose
Launch event at Yarcombe Village Hall	12 th July 2014	To engage the community in understanding what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why we are undertaking the project.
Community Questionnaire to all households	July / August 2014	To give the community an opportunity to express their views on a range of issues pertinent to the Plan.
Young Peoples' Questionnaire to all those aged 25 years and under.	November 2014	As mainly older people had responded to our questionnaire, we wished to give young people a simpler questionnaire to hear their views.
Young Peoples' "Hot dog" event in Yarcombe Village Hall	24 th November 2014	To engage young people in the parish with the Neighbourhood Plan process.
Vision, Aims & Objectives Consultation event at Yarcombe Village Hall	24 th November 2014	To encourage the community to "have their say" on the draft Vision, Aims & Objectives
Powerpoint Presentation at Yarcombe Annual Parish Meeting at Yarcombe Village Hall	18 th May 2015	To update the community on the progress of the Plan

1. Background to Consultation on Neighbourhood Plan

Yarcombe Parish Council agreed to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan in April 2014. A community steering group was established by asking for volunteers from the community to work with a small working group of parish councillors and the parish clerk.

The level of consultation that has been undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan goes beyond that required by legislation as the Parish Council and its Steering Group has continuously sought to work with the local community to make the Plan, as much as possible, reflect their views and wishes. We have worked closely with the relevant authorities, East Devon District Council and the Blackdown Hills AONB and thanks should be given for their support and encouragement in this regard.

In preparing the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has consistently ensured that residents and other stakeholders including local authorities, interest groups, land owners, businesses and statutory bodies have been consulted and that their comments have been noted and where appropriate incorporated into the plan as it evolved. In order to make available information, minutes and notices, and update residents and stakeholders on the progress of the Plan a decision was taken to produce a Neighbourhood Plan page on the village website so that as much as possible could be made easily accessible online and an easy method of feedback could be established.

2. Summary of Consultation Approach to Engage the Community

A number of key community consultation stages were identified at the outset and set as key milestones in the Project Plan. A Community Consultation and Engagement Plan including method statements was agreed. Its purposes included:

- enabling each consultation stage to be properly planned for
- ensuring the community at large understood when and why they were being consulted

The Community Consultation and Engagement Plan for the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan is included as Appendix 1 to this report. It is founded on a number of important principles:

- Publicising as widely as possible
- Utilising a variety of methods
- Applying the right method to the task and the required outcomes
- Providing appropriate levels of assistance, explanation and interpretation
- Maximising access and opportunity
- Encouraging reaction and feedback
- Reporting back on what was said and how it has been interpreted

Aside from these highly programmed and organised consultation 'events'. The Steering Group has been keen to facilitate a continuous two-way dialogue between the planning group and the community at large. This has been achieved by:

Communication Methods:	Brief Description:
Website	Designated NP page on Yarcombe village website
Reporting in person	Presentations by Chairman of Steering Group at Community Lunch and at Annual Parish Meeting
Village noticeboards	Updates & notice of surveys and events posted on noticeboards at Yarcombe and Marsh
Village magazine 'The Voices'	Articles, updates & notice of surveys published in monthly magazine which is distributed to nearly every household

A copy of our Community Consultation and Engagement Plan has been included at **Appendix 1** to this report and has been available online since August 2014 at: www.yarcombe.net

3. Equality and Inclusivity

We recognise that the foundation of a good neighbourhood plan is an effective and inclusive programme of consultation and engagement. Our aim was to reach everyone with a stake in the future of the area including people living, working or doing business here, those who deliver services to the local communities and people who have influence over the future of the area. We wanted to communicate and listen to everybody with a view; regardless of gender, ethnicity, colour, disability, religion, family responsibility, age, occupation, marital status, sexual orientation or trade union affiliation. We made efforts to reach those that others have traditionally found hard to reach and hard to hear. We agreed a communication strategy as part of an overall consultation and engagement plan, both to guide our approaches and monitor our effectiveness.

4. Initial Launch Event

It was decided to 'launch' the neighbourhood plan process by holding a 'drop-in-type' event which would focus on: raising awareness and informing the community about the process and timetable; what a neighbourhood plan is and can achieve; and asking the community to get involved in producing the Plan. It was also intended to ask about some of the key planning and development issues that residents feel could be addressed in the Plan. **(See Appendix 2)**

Shortly afterwards, to maximise the effectiveness of the launch period, the full range of local and strategic stakeholders were informed about the Parish Council's intentions. (We report on their response in Part 2 of this Consultation Statement.)

Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Launch Event	
Date	12 th July 2014
Location	Yarcombe Village Hall
Attendance (Nos.)	44

4.1 Who was consulted?

The launch event was held at the monthly Saturday Village Market in order to engage with as many people as possible in person. A range of parishioners and small businesses were present.

4.2 What did they say?

People were invited to express their views on a brief A5 size question sheet on how they felt Yarcombe & Marsh should look like in 10 years' time. They were asked what 3 things they valued most about our parish and what 3 things they would most like to change or improve.

Most people said that they valued the beautiful landscape and the sense of community. The majority of people said they would like to improve broadband provision and make provision for small scale housing for young people and downsizing. There was also concern about traffic speeding through Yarcombe village centre. **(See Appendix 3)**

4.3 How were the issues and concerns responded to?

All responses were kept and referred to by the Steering Group when compiling the Community Questionnaire and subsequently drafting the Plan.

5. Community Survey

We distributed a community questionnaire which:

- provided some feedback from work we have done on understanding the key issues for the area (i.e. help to set out some context)
- asked questions about some of the local issues which have come to light so far during the process
- asked questions to help fill gaps in our understanding of key local issues and problems
- asked about people's aspirations for their themselves and their neighbourhood

The questionnaire/survey was delivered to each household in the Parish.

Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan NP Questionnaire	
Date	July / August 2014
Delivery Method	By hand or post to every household. Also available for completion online at www.surveymomkey.com/s/yarcombenp
No. of questionnaires delivered	205
No. of completed questionnaires returned	81
Return Options	Online; by post in prepaid envelope; by hand to Yarcombe Village Hall

5.1 Who was consulted?

Everybody who lived, worked or visited the parish was given the opportunity to complete the Community Survey. It was delivered to every dwelling in the parish and additional copies were made available from the Parish Clerk. It could also be completed online.

5.2 What did they say?

- The natural environment and qualities such as tranquillity and dark skies are highly valued by the community.
- Public footpaths and accessible woodland are important for the community to access and enjoy the surrounding countryside.
- The design, size and location of new domestic buildings and preserving the overall character of local buildings and settlements are the highest priority of the Neighbourhood Plan in regards to the built environment.
- Solar panels on farm, commercial or domestic homes are the preferred option.
- Cycling is not popular within the parish, but walking is.
- Support was high for decisions regarding visibility splays and the number of parking spaces for new properties to be taken within the local area.
- There was support for continued housing development, at a rate equal to, or greater than, that of the last fifteen years.
- Support was high for new housing developments to be affordable housing for young people or privately owned for older villagers trading down.
- The majority of residents in employment commute outside the parish.
- There are a significant number of residents who work from home and more that would consider it. Improved broadband would further support this trend.
- A village/community shop was identified as a good local employment opportunity and a needed local amenity.

5.3 How were the issues and concerns responded to?

A copy of the Community Survey Report was available to read in full on the village website and was also available from the Parish Clerk. The Steering Group produced a summary of key findings was published in the village magazine and displayed on the noticeboards.

The report raised the concern that the number of young people that responded was small and advised that additional engagement with young people might be considered to ensure that their opinions were included. Consequently, a letter was sent to each parishioner under the age of 25 years inviting them to complete a short survey (available online at SurveyMonkey) and to attend a 'hotdog' supper and event at the Village Hall. **(See Section 6 Community Context for details)**

A copy of the Community Questionnaire and a summary of its Key Findings are included as **Appendices 4 & 5** to this report. A separate report on the Yarcombe Community Survey 2014 has been available online since September 2014 and can be found at: www.yarcombe.net

6. Community Context

Alongside the Community Questionnaire we wrote to all the community-based organisations, groups and local businesses. Our communication was aimed at ensuring that all such bodies were aware of neighbourhood planning in the area and had an opportunity to make a contribution. We also asked them to encourage their 'members' to participate in the neighbourhood planning process. A copy of the standard letter is included in **Appendix 6**.

6.1 Who was consulted?

A list of all bodies that were written to is included in **Appendix 7**. A copy of the letter sent to all young people under the age of 25 years is included at **Appendix 8** and a summary of their responses is included in **Appendix 9**.

The dates and purpose of our communications is shown below:

Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan NP Local Groups Consultation		
Date:	Method	Purpose:
30 th July 2014	Letter/email	Inform groups of process for NP and of community questionnaire
20 th October 2014	Letter	Letter to 69 parishioners under the age of 25 years
24 th November 2014	'Hotdog' supper & NP Exhibition	To give young people an opportunity to give their views and aspirations for NP

6.2 What did they say?

13 letters to local stakeholders were sent out, but only 1 response was received which did not raise any issues or concerns.

13 responses were received from the young people's survey. The key findings were:

- The young people highly valued the beautiful natural environment, wildlife and open space.
- They felt that they lived in a very friendly parish with a good community spirit.
- They would like better public transport.
- A pub and village shop would be welcomed.
- A playing field or meeting place for young people would be desirable.
- Improved broadband provision is required.

6.3 How were the issues and concerns responded to?

No issues or concerns were raised as a result of letters to local stakeholders. The Steering Group concluded that this might be due to local groups in this small parish mainly being organised and attended by parishioners who responded as individuals in the Community Questionnaire.

The responses of the young people mainly reflected the views of the Community Questionnaire and were taken into consideration when drafting the Neighbourhood Plan document.

7. Community Follow-up

The Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group made it known that it was prepared to hold of specific consultations with local groups and organisations as necessary, to ensure that their views and opinions were heard.

7.1 How we consulted?

Different formats were used including short presentations with Question and Answer opportunities at village events and a 'hotdog' supper for young people under 25 years of age. These were arranged to:

- Meet the specific request of a local organisation or interest group for a meeting
- On our instigation, to help us fill 'gaps' in our knowledge or understanding
- Help further awareness of and involvement in neighbourhood planning for targeted 'harder to reach' groups

7.2 Who was consulted?

The Chairman of the Steering Group was invited to give a short presentation after the bi-monthly Community Lunch at Yarcombe Village Hall on Wednesday 16th July 2014. Approximately 45, mainly retired parishioners attended.

A 'hotdog supper' was held on 24th November 2014 to engage the younger members of the community in discussion of the Plan. **(see section 6)**

A Powerpoint presentation was given by the Chairman of the Steering Group as part of the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2015 to update the community on the progress of the Plan. A copy of the Presentation slides is included in **Appendix 10**.

7.3 What did they say?

Although interest was shown in understanding the process of drafting a Neighbourhood Plan at the two community events, no specific issues or concerns were raised and the community appeared to approve of the progress being made.

Please **see Section 6.2** above for the key findings of the young people's questionnaire.

A copy of the Powerpoint presentation has been available online since May 2015 at:
www.yarcombe.net

8. Vision, Aims and Objectives Consultation

The Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook work to analyse and interpret the information we gathered and what we had been told through various surveys and consultation events. We used all this 'evidence' to prepare a set of draft aims for the Neighbourhood Plan. These were then used to develop draft objectives and an overall vision statement.

We held a community consultation which presented our findings and set out, for the public to consider, the key neighbourhood planning and development issues and opportunities presented to us to date. The consultation also set out the key emerging themes for the Plan. We shared what we considered could be the Vision, Aims and Objectives of the Plan. We asked the community if these set the right agenda and direction for the Plan. Our purpose was leave this phase of consultation with a good idea and some certainty of the sorts of policies and proposals that the Plan should contain and, importantly, which the community support. From the consultation we also wanted to be in a position to draw-up a range of options, where options were possible, for certain policies and proposals that might be in the Plan. Photos of the Consultation event are included as **Appendix 11**.

Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan NP Vision, Aims and Objectives	
Date	24 th November 2014
Location	Yarcombe Village Hall
Attendance	17 + 13 under 25s

8.1 Who was consulted?

The display in the Village Hall included laminated posters showing the key questions and messages from our Questionnaire responses and our draft aims for each of the seven topic areas. A supply of green and red sticky dots was provided and visitors were asked to stick a dot on each laminated topic poster – green to demonstrate agreement and red to indicate that they disagreed.

8.2 What did they say?

The response to the draft aims was:

Draft Aims	Number of green dots (agree)	Number of red dots (disagree)
Natural Environment	27	1
Built and Historic Environment	12	1
Population & Housing	15	0
Economy & Employment	18	0
Community Facilities & Services	13	0
Transport & Accessibility	15	1
Energy & Low Carbon Alternatives	10	3

Only one member of the community left a comment about their disagreement with the draft aim for Energy and Low Carbon Alternatives, stating that the aims needed to be more specific and that solar panels should only be placed on buildings, not on the ground.

8.3 How were the issues and concerns responded to?

The laminated posters were kept and referred to by the Steering Group when drafting the Plan.

9. Regulation 14 (Pre-submission Stage) Consultation

Neighbourhood Plan regulations require that a statutory consultation period of 6 weeks is undertaken by the qualifying body (the Parish Council) on the final draft plan prior to its submission to the Local Planning Authority in advance of their statutory Regulation 16 consultation.

9.1 Who was Consulted?

The Regulation 14 consultation is specific about organisations and stakeholders that should be consulted. The legislation requires that prior to submitting the Plan to the local planning authority the qualifying body (the Parish Council) must:

- publicise it in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area
- consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan
- send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority

All of the residents and businesses within the parish were consulted together with a range of statutory bodies. A copy of the plan was also sent to the Local Planning Authority, East Devon DC, although its officers had been involved in the consultation process and finalising the draft plan.

9.2 How were they Consulted?

The Steering Group circulated a letter and response form (**see Appendices 12 & 13**) to all resident dwellings within the Neighbourhood Plan Area on 28th February 2016. This directed people to an online copy of the plan, or hard copies could be viewed at various locations in the parish, or an individual copy could be requested. An article was published in the village magazine promoting the consultation. The Yarcombe website also directed people to the Plan on its Neighbourhood Plan page. The letter indicated how to respond and provided the deadline of 9th April 2016, by which representations needed to be returned. The feedback form could be downloaded from the village website and emailed to the Steering Group Secretary, dropped off at three central locations or handed to any parish councillor.

During the course of the consultation the key consultation stakeholders were contacted to enquire whether a response would be made.

9.3 What did the Consultees say?

Initially, only two comments were received from members of the community. One of these was to congratulate the Steering Group on the draft Plan that had been produced and one was to query the possibility of including a group of houses in the 'hamlets' section of the Plan. The Steering Group looked at a map of the parish to check the position of this group of houses and concluded that they were too close to the village centre to be constitute a separate hamlet, so no alteration was made to the Plan.

Late Representation to the Pre-Submission document

However, in early November 2016 the recently formed Yarcombe Parish Community Land Trust contacted the Parish Council to ask for an amendment to the Population and Housing section of the draft Plan. A representative of the Trust was invited to the Parish Council Meeting on 28th November and it was agreed that an amendment would be made to Paragraph 5.6. The amendment makes clear that that any limited small scale development to provide affordable housing might take place near the village centres of both Yarcombe and Marsh. This was implicit in the original Plan but the amendment ensures that there is no ambiguity. The community were alerted to this update by a notice on the village website and an article in the village magazine which goes to almost every household. Updated copies of the Plan were displayed in Yarcombe Village Hall, The Flintlock Inn at Marsh and on the website.

10. Conclusions

The level of community consultation and engagement undertaken during the production of the Yarcombe and Marsh Neighbourhood Plan has been varied and extensive. It has reached a wide range of the local population through a variety of methods and mediums. A variety of groups and different sections of the community have had the opportunity to participate or comment on the emerging draft Neighbourhood Plan.

The comments received at each stage of the Neighbourhood Plan have been fully considered and have helped to guide and shape the form of the Plan so that it is truly reflective of what local people wish to see happen for their village.

This Consultation Statement and the supporting appendices are considered to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

Yarcombe and Marsh Neighbourhood Plan

Part 2: Consultation Statement – Statutory and Strategic Consultees

1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to conform to the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should:

- (a) Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan
- (b) Explain how they were consulted
- (c) Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted
- (d) Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan

This Consultation Statement provides an overview of each of the above stages of consultation in accordance with Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations.

Part 2 of this Consultation Statement summarises the statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken with relevant statutory bodies and stakeholders, other than those that could be described as being a part of our community, in developing the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Summary of Consultation Approach to Statutory Consultees

It was decided to make the earliest contact those bodies and organisations that are defined as a consultation body under the terms of schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012. With the help of our consultants, East Devon DC and Blackdown Hills AONB we prepared a contact list of all bodies and organisations that serve or provide services to the parish.

The aims of the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were to:

- ‘front-load’ the consultation, so that the Plan could be informed by the views of those with an interest in the parish from the earliest stage
- to ensure the neighbourhood planning process was informed by the views and intentions of statutory bodies and stakeholders
- to take fully into account those views and intentions
- meet the requirements of Regulation 14

3. Launch and Initial Communication

The intention to prepare an Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan was first publicised by the local planning authority, East Devon DC, following the Parish Council's application to have the parish area designated as a Neighbourhood Area in March 2014. The Plan and the neighbourhood planning process was publicly launched in July 2014. Around that date, correspondence, largely by email, was sent to 47 bodies and organisations that were thought likely to have an interest in our intentions and outcomes. Apart from informing them of our timetable we invited an early contribution should they wish to contribute anything at this early stage in the process. This might include:

- informing us of key strategies, plans and programmes (or elements of them which are of relevance to our parish) of which they think we should be aware
- telling us what they think the Neighbourhood Plan should focus on or help to achieve
- any other comments they wish to make to inform the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Yarcombe.

A list of all the bodies we wrote to is included in **Appendix A**:

3.1 Responses Received

10 responses were received and were recorded and reported to the Steering Group. A schedule of respondents and the summary of initial responses is set out in **Appendix B**.

3.2 How were the issues and concerns responded to?

Few issues or concerns were highlighted in the responses from Statutory Consultees. The Steering Group referred to the letters and emails that were received when drafting the vision, aims and objectives of the Plan.

A concern was raised by the East Devon Ramblers Association regarding the possible reinstatement of 'lost footpaths' in the Yarcombe area. The Secretary of the Steering Group contacted the Public Rights of Way Officer for Devon County Council for clarification of this matter and was informed that no valid proposals to claim any routes as public rights of way had been put forward during the County Council's review of the Definitive Map. He also stated that the Neighbourhood Plan process is not the most appropriate mechanism for considering this issue.

4. Evidence Gathering

Responses received from bodies and organisations provided useful feedback and information that contributed toward our evidence base:

Their response was referred to in the Evidence Report that we have produced as part of the neighbourhood planning process and which was made available to the community via the website.

The information received was fully taken account of in analysing the evidence and preparing our draft aims and objectives.

5. Sustainability

East Devon DC and the Blackdown Hills AONB were prime consultees and also assisted consultation and liaison between the Yarcombe Steering Group and statutory bodies including the Environment Agency and Natural England in respect of requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment in regard to EU Habitats Regulations.

5.1 Screening Opinions for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

Two screening exercises were undertaken to ensure that the emerging plan would not have significant environmental impacts or likely significant effects on the protected characteristics of the Blackdown Hills AONB which cover the Neighbourhood Plan area.

A screening opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment was requested by the Chairman of the Steering Group in January 2015 and consultation was undertaken with statutory bodies by the District Council. A report was issued by the District Council in June 2016 following this consultation, stating that no formal Strategic Environmental Assessment would be required for the Plan.

6. Regulation 14 (Pre-submission stage) Consultation

Neighbourhood Plan regulations require that a statutory consultation period of 6 weeks is undertaken by the responsible body on the final draft plan prior to its submission to the Local Authority in advance of their statutory Regulation 16 consultation.

6.1 Drafting the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan policies were drafted in close collaboration with:

- East Devon DC, to ensure that the emerging policies were not in conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework, were aligned to the Local Development Plan and that they were usable in a Development Management context; and with
- The Blackdown Hills AONB to ensure that the policies were in harmony with those that prevail across the whole of the AONB.

Both of these bodies were considered as key statutory consultees under Regulation 14.

6.2 Who else was Consulted?

The Regulation 14 consultation is specific about organisations and stakeholders that should be consulted. The legislation requires that prior to submitting the plan to the local planning authority the qualifying body must:

- publicise it in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area
- consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan; and
- send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.

The statutory bodies listed in Appendix A were consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Yarcombe thus ensuring we adhered to the requirements of Schedule 1 of the 2012 Regulations.

6.3 How were they Consulted?

An email was sent on 28th February 2016 to all bodies and organisations on our consultation list (**See Appendix C**) with a link to the draft Plan on www.yarcombe.net and giving the locations of hard copies of the Plan. An explanation of what was required for the consultation and the date of 9th April 2016 when responses were required by, was given.

6.4 What did the Consultees say?

8 responses were received as a result of the consultation.

A summary of the responses is set out at **Appendix D** alongside a list of the changes made in response.

The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership advised us to clarify the status of our Village Design Statement and so an amendment was made to paragraph 5.7 of the Plan.

Natural England made recommendations that the Steering Group considered and subsequently made the following amendments:

- The term 'geodiversity' was added to Policy NE1 as suggested.
 - In Policy BHE1 the words 'natural environment' were replaced by 'biodiversity and geodiversity'.
 - Yarcombe was specifically named in Policy PH1 to improve clarity.
 - The wording of Policies ELC1 and ELC2 were slightly amended in light of a recent Written Ministerial Statement about applications for wind energy development.
- EDDC also provided consolidated feedback on various elements of the Plan which were taken into account.

7. Conclusions

In preparing the Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan we have made strenuous efforts to establish and maintain a dialogue with those bodies and organisations covered by Schedule 1 of the Regulations and those other bodies and organisations we have identified as having an interest in our parish.

The views, comments and suggestions received at each stage of the Neighbourhood Plan have been fully considered and have helped to guide and shape the form of the Plan so that it not only reflects what local people wish to see happen for their area but takes account of how we can share future planning and delivery with outside bodies and organisations so as to realise our aims and objectives.

This Consultation Statement and the supporting appendices are considered to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 **Community Engagement Plan for Yarcombe and Marsh**
(sent as separate attachment of supporting evidence)

Appendix 2 **Launch Event Poster**

Yarcombe & Marsh Parish Council

What is a Neighbourhood Plan and why do we need one?

Please join us at the Village Market on Saturday 12th July to find out

Free drinks and nibbles

*We need your views and comments so **please come along and have your say!***

YARCOMBE AND MARSH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We're interested in your views on how you feel Yarcombe and Marsh should look in 10 years' time.....

What are the three things you most value about our parish and would like to preserve for the future?

- 1**
- 2**
- 3**

What are the three things you would most like to change or improve?

- 1**
- 2**
- 3**

Is there anything else you would like us to take into account when the Neighbourhood Plan is being created?

If you are interested in joining the Neighbourhood Plan Team please leave your details overleaf:

Appendix 5 Key Findings of Community Questionnaire

Natural Environment

Qualities such as tranquility and dark skies are highly valued by the community.

The natural environment and features such as landscape, woodland and Devon banks are of higher value than human features such as character of village settlements, country lanes and farming practices.

Public footpaths and accessible woodland are important for the community to access and enjoy the surrounding countryside.

Built and Historic Environment

The design, size and location of new domestic buildings and preserving the overall character of local buildings and settlements are the highest priority for the neighbourhood plan regarding the built environment.

There is enthusiasm for increasing the number of trees within the parish, of which native species are by far the most popular choice.

Energy and Low Carbon Alternatives

Solar panels on farm, commercial or domestic homes are the most preferred options.

Transport and Accessibility

Cycling is not popular within the parish, and there is little that could be done to change this.

Walking is popular within the parish; however there aren't any strongly supported options that would encourage more.

Support was very high for the decisions regarding visibility splays and the number of parking spaces for new properties to be taken within local area.

Support was also high for reducing unnecessary signage and street furniture.

Population and Housing

There was support for continued housing development, at a rate equal to, or greater than, that of the last fifteen years.

Support was high for new housing developments to be affordable housing for young people or privately owned for older people trading down.

Economy and Employment

The majority of residents in employment commute outside the parish for employment.

There are a significant number of residents who work from home and more that would consider it.

Improved broadband would further support this trend.

There is very little interest in a local 'hot-desk' facility.

A village/community shop was identified as a good local employment opportunity and a needed local amenity.

Appendix 6 Letter to Local Community Groups and organisations

Yarcombe and Marsh Neighbourhood Plan

As you will be aware, work in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan is now well under way. It is Yarcombe Parish Council's aim to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place by the middle of 2015. I am writing to invite your organisation to contribute to the planning process and be kept informed of progress.

A neighbourhood plan is the prerogative of every town and parish council in England. The Localism Act 2011 has given us the right to prepare a plan that puts local planning policies in place to interpret and add detail to East Devon District Council's Local Plan. A neighbourhood plan can cover any aspect of future development we deem needs a more local policy putting in place. We can decide to have a wide-ranging set of neighbourhood policies or just deal with one or two matters. Our policies can be detailed or simply set general principles for development.

It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan for our area reflects the wishes and aspirations of the community. Every adult will have an opportunity to vote for the Plan at a referendum before it becomes a formal planning document. We intend to ensure that all those who live or work in the parish are able to help define the Plan and contribute to its preparation over the next nine months.

We are presently gathering facts and evidence in order to understand better how our neighbourhood and communities function and what local people think about life in Yarcombe and Marsh today and their hopes for the future. We have sent a questionnaire to every household.

By this letter, we are also inviting every community and voluntary organisation to make a preliminary contribution to the planning process by letting us have your perspective on:

- what is good and not so good about the parish today?
what could be done to make the parish a better place to live and work?
- what, if anything is preventing your organisation from functioning as it would wish?
- Your organisation's needs for different or better accommodation or more space in future?

- What you hope we might tackle through the Neighbourhood Plan?

We would welcome hearing from you on these and any other matter you think is relevant by email or letter, if possible by 15th September 2014.

Appendix 7 List of Local Community Groups and Organisations

Local Organisations for consultation
Royal British Legion
Handbells
Short Mat Bowls
Cricket Club
Skittles League
Croquet Club
Horticultural Society
Craft Club
PCSO
Young Farmers
Yarcombe Amenities Club
Reading Group
Maggie's Mix Music Group

Appendix 8 Letter to Young people

Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Council

October 2014

Dear

Yarcombe and Marsh Neighbourhood Plan.

I'm writing to you to ask for your help in preparing the Neighbourhood plan for Yarcombe and Marsh. Please could you complete a survey and if possible meet in the village hall for a brief chat about the plan.

The survey asks the young people of our Parish to give their views so that we can ensure that our plan represents the wishes of the whole community, and not just those of older people who are able to influence things today. Please give your views by logging on to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Yarcombe_and_Marsh_Neighbourhood.

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw, which could win you £25!

I invite you to come to the Village Hall on Monday 24th November between 6 and 7:30 pm for a hotdog. We will be presenting the lucky winner with £25 at approximately 7:00 pm and you will have the option to discuss your views if you wish. If you are in the younger age group and Mum or Dad need to bring you they are welcome to come in as well.

I hope to see you there.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely

Lesley Pidgeon,

Chairman, Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Council.

lesleypidgeon@yahoo.co.uk

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The neighbourhood plan considers what is good about our community area and what needs to be improved. Places change when buildings are built either for housing or for other purposes such as places of work, e.g. agricultural buildings, workshops, offices or small factories or community building such as shops pubs, churches or community halls. It also changes when infrastructure such as roads and faster broadband are introduced, or when key amenities, such as schools or doctor's surgeries close. The environment is also influenced by such things as where trees are planted, where footpaths run, whether or not historic hedges are preserves or sometime taken away to make the use of the land more efficient. Our plan will consider all these matters and put down on paper what we would like to see

happen, and what our priorities will be to create the Yarcombe and Marsh of the future.

The people whose views are most important in creating a plan of this sort are those who will live longest and whose lives will be most influenced by it. A person aged 18 now may have another 80 or more years to experience the results of the plan so their views are very important when compared to an older person who may have a fraction of that time to experience it.

Appendix 9 Summary of responses of young people

Question	Summary of responses
What are the three things you most like about living in Yarcombe and Marsh?	Scenery and landscape
	Rural and peaceful
	Friendly community
	Wildlife
What are the three things about Yarcombe and Marsh that you would most like to change or improve?	Public transport
	Have a village shop and pub
	Better playing facilities
	Improvements to roads
	Internet speed
Please can you comment on anything else you think we should think about when we are writing the Yarcombe and Marsh Neighbourhood Plan.	Needs a social area for young families
	Make sure the pub at Yarcombe doesn't get turned into housing
	Affordable housing
	Better Broadband speed
	Bus service

Appendix 10 Powerpoint Presentation for Annual Parish Meeting (sent as separate attachment of supporting evidence)

Appendix 11 Photographs of Vision, Aims & Objectives Consultation



YARCOMBE & MARSH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Evidence - Key Questions & Messages	Transport & Accessibility 2014 Consultation - Key Messages	Draft Aims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are concerns about road safety and traffic speed through the village. The AONB has a desire to achieve an accessible and well maintained network of Public Rights of Way. Walking is a popular pastime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic and speed limit should be further controlled. Walking is much more popular than cycling Decisions regarding visibility splays, parking & signage should be taken at local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support measures to reduce traffic speed through the village Maintain, and if possible enhance a network of footpaths

Objectives

Aim 1 Support measures to reduce traffic speed through the village

1. Engage in further consultation for regular speed checks by police and clearer speed limit indicators

Aim 2 Maintain, and if possible enhance a network of footpaths

1. Support small scale improvement projects for footpaths and bridleways
2. Support schemes that extend the footpath network where needed




Appendix 12 Regulation 14 Consultation Letter on Draft Plan

I write to inform you that we are consulting on the pre-submission draft of the Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. We are hereby seeking your views on the draft Plan.

A copy of the draft Plan can be found on our village website at: www.yarcombe.net along with other documents relating to the Plan's development.

Otherwise, copies of the draft Plan can be viewed throughout the publicity period at the following locations:

Jubilee Hall, Yarcombe

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Yarcombe

Flintlock Inn, Marsh

Or available from any Parish Councillor

The pre-submission consultation period runs for six weeks. Your comments and representations should be returned to us by 9th April 2016.

Representations can either be sent by email or letter to Wendy Randle at wendy.randle@btinternet.com or to Four Elms Cottage, Yarcombe, Honiton EX14 9AU.

Yours faithfully

Wendy Randle

Secretary to Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Yarcombe & Marsh Neighbourhood Plan - Feedback Form

Name:

Contact details:

We will not make public any of your contact details, we will only contact you if we need to clarify any of your comments. Please provide the following information so we can understand what aspect you are commenting on:

Page or policy number:

Comment:

Page or policy number:

Comment:

Page or policy number:

Comment:

Please continue on another page if necessary.

Please return this form **by 9th April 2016** to any Parish Councillor or email it to wendy.randle@btinternet.com

Part 2 Appendix A List of Statutory Consultees **(sent as separate attachment of supporting evidence)**

Appendix B Summary of Initial Responses

Organisation	Summary of Response
Highways Agency	Will comment as Plan progresses if any proposals have impact on the Strategic Road Network.
Fire Service	Inundated with requests for involvement in NPs across the district. Will be back in contact if necessary.
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	No specific issues to consider.
Natural England	Gave links to useful sites which give advice on environmental considerations that need to be taken into account.
Home Builders Federation	No involvement offered but sent letter on to South West planning contacts.
DCC Historic Environment Team	Gave prepared list of general comments and links to useful sites.
Marine Management Organisation	No comments to submit in relation to NP.

Sport England	Gave general comments on national policy for sport.
Woodland Trust	Gave encouragement for production of NP and link to website.
East Devon Ramblers	Concern raised regarding possible reinstatement of 'lost footpaths' in the Yarcombe area. (see sec 3.2 of Consultation Statement)

Appendix C Letter to Statutory Consultees regarding Draft Plan

Notification of Publicity of Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation Draft

Statutory Consultees - Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (The Regulations)

I write to inform you that we are consulting on the pre-submission draft of the Yarcombe and Marsh Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. We are hereby seeking your views on the draft Plan.

A copy of the draft Plan can be found on our village website at: www.yarcombe.net along with other documents relating to the Plan's development.

Otherwise, copies of the draft Plan can be viewed throughout the publicity period at the following locations:

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The pre-submission consultation period runs for six weeks. Your comments and representations should be returned to us by 9th April 2016.

Representations can either be sent by email or letter to Wendy Randle at wendy.randle@btinternet.com or to Four Elms Cottage, Yarcombe, Honiton EX14 9AU.

Yours faithfully

Wendy Randle

Secretary to Yarcombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Appendix D Summary of Responses to Draft Plan

Statutory Consultees - Summary of responses to draft Plan

Organisation	Summary of Response	Changes made to Plan
Natural England	Welcomed the progression of Yarcombe's NP. Recommended that geodiversity was added into the policy.	The term 'geodiversity' was added to Policy NE1 as suggested.
	Policy BHE1- substitute 'natural environment' with 'biodiversity and geodiversity'.	In Policy BHE1 the words 'natural environment' were replaced by 'biodiversity and geodiversity'.
	Policy PH1 – specifically name the villages to which this policy applies.	Yarcombe was specifically named in Policy PH1 to improve clarity.
	Policy ELC1 & ELC2 – recommended slight amendment to wording in light of recent Ministerial Statement.	The wording of Policies ELC1 and ELC2 were slightly amended in light of a recent Written Ministerial Statement about applications for wind energy development.
Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership	Welcomed the importance attached to the natural environment and tranquillity. Advised us to clarify the status of our own village design statement in light of our NP.	An amendment was made to paragraph 5.7 of the Plan.
Highways England	Satisfied that the proposed policies are unlikely to impact on the operation or safety of the Strategic Road Network.	No changes necessary.
Historic England	Pleased to see that our community has highlighted how much it values its local historic environment and reflected this in our schedule of policies and proposals. No issues to specifically comment on.	No changes necessary.
Environment Agency	Generally supportive of the aims and objectives for the natural environment, particularly Policy NE1. Could consider reducing / managing flood risk and protecting / enhancing the water environment.	No changes made because Steering Group concluded that our Plan could not effectively build on national and regional policy.
South West Water	No comments to make.	No changes necessary
East Devon District Council	Presentation of Policies need to be consistent.	Consistency of presentation of policies tidied up.

	Suggested removing references to superseded Local Plan Policies in related policy boxes.	References removed.
	Various spelling and grammatical corrections.	Spelling and grammatical corrections made.
	Policy NE2 – suggested revised wording for criteria ii) to remove duplication of phrasing.	Duplication of phrasing removed.
	Policy NE2 – image should be of better quality.	Higher resolution photo image used in Policy NE2.
	Policy PH1 – use of the term ‘may be supported’ does not provide certainty for a decision maker.	Wording amended.
	Policy PH1 – policy text should be separated into criteria a) and b).	Text corrected to separate criteria points.
	Policy CSF1 – policy text is unnecessarily bulleted.	Bullet point removed.
	Policy CSF2 – policy text is unnecessarily bulleted.	Bullet point removed.
	Policy TRA1 – remove reference to illegal use of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways.	Policy wording amended.