

Hilton Parish Council

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Hilton, Marston on Dove and Hoon Neighbourhood Development Plan

Consultation statement

Hilton Parish Council decided to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) in June 2017 and a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) was set up at a public meeting in July 2017. In October of that year the NPSG, which initially consisted of two parish councillors and six volunteers who were not councillors, was formally constituted as a committee of the Parish Council.

It was subsequently decided to expand the Designated Area covered by the plan to include the neighbouring settlements of Marston on Dove and Hoon.

A Master Programme was agreed which outlined all the steps of the consultation process and a copy of that plan can be found on our website (see footnote A).

To make this as effective as possible a Communications Working Group was set up which developed a new brand for the NDP 'Your Village Your Voice'. This branding has subsequently been applied to all the communications with residents including a dedicated website and a Facebook page. In addition articles were sent to the local magazine *Hilton and Dove Valley Life* and leaflets and posters were distributed around the Designated Area.

A Launch Meeting was held in January 2018 attended by about 50 people and where volunteers were called for to join working groups to cover the topics of housing, transport, the environment, education, leisure and business. A number of people came forward and these groups developed contacts, investigated their subjects and identified issues for the Designated Area. In addition they identified the questions which were to be asked on their topics in the initial consultation with residents.

The first consultation with residents was scheduled for June/July 2018 and planning began that April. A detailed plan was produced a copy of which can be found on our website (see footnote B). Questions for the survey were suggested by the working groups and the Communications Working Group collated these to produce the questionnaire. It was decided to use Survey Monkey for both online and offline completion of the survey.

A paper copy of the survey was delivered to every house in the Designated Area by the Royal Mail while the facility to fill in the survey online was set up on the website. The survey was publicised through *Hilton and Dove Valley Life*, leaflets, Hilton Primary School's parental email service, Facebook and posters which were put up throughout the area.

Paper copies of the survey could be returned via drop boxes set up at key locations around the area such as Hilton Village Hall, the Post Office and Wellbrook Medical Centre. Residents were asked to provide email addresses and we now have a database of more than 500 people who wish to be kept informed of developments with the NDP.

A total of 926 surveys were completed and returned, including both paper copies and online versions. A copy of the survey can be found on our website (see footnote C).

The main issues and concerns raised by the residents were a desire to stop any further new house building until the infrastructure and services had caught up with the growth in population; a desire to reduce traffic through the village and to stop speeding; a wish to protect the existing green spaces and the environment; to protect and enhance safe walking and cycling routes; to reduce inconsiderate parking on pavements; and to see more provision for older residents in the form of sheltered accommodation and a residential care home.

The working groups analysed these responses and drafted policies aimed at addressing these issues.

A second consultation during which the residents could consider the proposed policies was planned for March 2019. Planning started in January and a 'Step Chart' was produced to enable residents to understand the process we were following and the second consultation was branded as 'The Next Step'. A copy of this chart can be found on our website (see footnote D).

This consultation document set out the proposed policies and gave residents the ability to agree or disagree and add a comment. The background to each policy proposal was set out in a series of charts which were published on our website and also displayed at the village hall. A copy of this second consultation document can be found on our website (see footnote E) and copies of the supporting charts can be found on our website (see footnote F).

The same process for making the survey available to residents as the first survey was adopted with both paper copies and an online version being available and the same methods were used to publicise this step. A total of 630 surveys were completed and the results were analysed by the Working Groups looking at each topic. Full details of the responses can be found on our website (see footnote G).

No fundamental concerns were raised in this survey. We also had help from a Planning Consultant, who advised on the extra evidence that would be required to support the policies. He also assisted us with developing the revised policies which were included in the first version of the NDP to ensure their applicability in planning terms. The draft policies were discussed with SDDC by both the representatives of the Steering Group and the Planning Consultant. Subsequently the draft NDP was modified to take into account the comments they made.

Planning started in early October 2019 for Regulation 14 consultation which began on 28th of that month. The draft NDP was sent to 34 non-resident organisations, including Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council, for their comment and it was also made available to local residents.

However it was not considered practical to print 3,300 copies of the Draft NDP and distribute them to every household in the Designated Area so the focus for this consultation was predominantly online. A small number of physical copies were produced and displayed at key locations in the area.

All households were sent a leaflet explaining where copies of the NDP could be seen and this was backed up by articles in *Hilton and Dove Valley Life* and on Facebook. A direct mailshot was sent to the 500 people on the database and 34 non-resident consultees were emailed to give them the opportunity to comment.

The results were that there were 215 returns from residents and eight from non-resident consultees. The plan was downloaded 1,249 times and the result of this survey was 92% in favour of the NDP. Further changes were incorporated to reflect some concerns but also the positive comments. Summaries of the residents' comments and comments from the organisations consulted can be found on the website. The NDP will now go back to South Derbyshire District Council for Regulation 16 consultation.

Website www.yourvillageyourvoice.org.uk

Footnotes

- A Master programme
- B Detailed plan for first consultation
- C First survey document
- D Step chart
- E Second consultation document
- F Supporting charts
- G Responses to second consultation