

APPENDIX 3: AMENDMENTS TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PROTOCOL

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Have your say on planning applications - Introduction	
5	The majority of planning applications considered by the Council are small scale e.g. householder applications or applications for development which will affect a relatively small area. Figure 1 is a summary diagram outlining the process of determining a planning application. The Council aims to determine <u>these small</u> planning applications within 8 weeks of validation.
Figure 1 'Summary diagram to show how a planning application is decided'	
6	<i>Second text bubble in the sequence</i> <u>Submission of planning application</u> Applicant submits the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Forms • Drawings • Fee • Supporting information
7	<i>Text bubble stating:</i> Re-consult <u>residents and consultees on changes to application</u> where necessary <i>Insert an arrow from the circle above "Negotiate with.."</i>
Pre-application	
9	Pre-application dialogue in relation to proposals for major development is also undertaken by the Council. A productive dialogue at this stage can resolve issues and help ensure that the application submitted is well presented and includes the appropriate information to enable the proposal to be assessed and understood by the Local Authority, consultees and stakeholders. This dialogue should take place through the Council's multi-disciplinary development team approach. More detail about this service can be found on the Council's website at live.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/apply-planning-permission/you-apply <u>As a trial, the Council is amending its Development Team procedure so as to seek the views of elected members on the most significant Development Team proposals at pre-application stage.</u>
Submission of Application	
11	After a planning application has been submitted and validated, details of the application are publicly available and details of the application are publicised. Planning applications are available to view on the Council's website 2–3 days after validation. The Council's website can also be accessed at Council Connect offices. Council Connect Officers are available to assist those wishing to use this

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	service. For large scale major applications a hard copy summary document may also be requested at Council Connect offices.
Considering an application	
12	Comments on planning applications must be made within a minimum of 21 days (for first consultation) and days for re-consultation. Due to the high volume of comments received, letters will not be acknowledged. Comments received after the deadlines are not required to be considered by the Council <u>but will be considered by officers where possible</u> when determining the application. However, bodies such as Natural England will be allowed a longer period of time to comment on applications where this is prescribed by legislation.
Figure 4	
15	Applications of special interest <u>particular significance or importance</u> are also highlighted on the “Specials Interests” page during their consultation period.
Heritage Assets - Introduction	
17	The significance of locally important, undesignated heritage assets is specifically noted in the Local Planning Authority's policies and they are included in the Historic Environment Record. The impact of development proposals on undesignated historic <u>heritage</u> assets are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
Getting involved in Planning Policy	
20	City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study SPD
Figure 5: Target groups we need to involve in the preparation of the LDF	
22	Information might also be disseminated through community newsletters or at community events. Work undertaken by other initiatives within the Council will also be taken on board e.g. the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is currently considering <u>and</u> how best to engage faith communities in the district in the Community Strategy.
22	Small businesses have an important role in the local economy. However, there is evidence that small business owners often do not have the time or resources to spare to become involved in planning issues. To overcome this, organisations representing small businesses will be consulted. The Economic Development Partnership currently links to the LSP and contains business representation, whilst Business West is directly represented on the LSP – links to the LSP will therefore be important. The four West of England councils <u>and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) published a Planning Toolkit in 2012 which aims for a more positive and consistent planning system based on collaboration and engagement including with business.</u> In addition, direct links will be made with local Chambers and with the local representatives of the Federation of Small Businesses.
How will we engage you?	
23	Appendix B presents a toolbox of methods which the Council will use <u>can use as appropriate</u> to encourage community involvement in the

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	creation of the LDF and go beyond the statutory minimum requirements.
What will happen to your views and comments?	
26	A schedule of comments made during the consultation will be available for public inspection, together with the Council's response to the issues raised. The comments and responses will be agreed by the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet member as appropriate. Please note we cannot treat any comments made as confidential.
26	A statement of compliance to the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol will be produced. This statement will outline how the Local Authority has complied with the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol. <u>This statement will often form part of the consultation report.</u> For Development Plan Documents this will be submitted to the Secretary of State. For Supplementary Planning Documents this will be presented to the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet member as appropriate.
Figure 11: Process for Processing Applications for Neighbourhood Forum Designation in Bath	
36	<p><i>Orange comment bubble:</i></p> <p>If you already have a Parish or Town Plan that you still think is up to date you could skip to step 3 (see page 40). However, you will still need to formally apply to designate your Neighbourhood Area, although where no change to your parish area this will be undertaken quickly via a delegated decision.</p> <p><u>The Neighbourhood Planning Roadmap Guide produced by locality, is a useful resource. It includes a series of worksheets and helpful lists of tasks and checklists.</u></p> <p><u>http://locality.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-roadmap-</u></p>
The importance of trees - Introduction	
48	The importance of our trees is embedded in the Council's policy documents such as the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan, Core Strategy, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Landscape Character Assessment and the City of Bath World Heritage site setting study <u>Site Setting SPD.</u>
Figure 14: How is an application for tree works for trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order decided by the Council?	
49	<p>Pre-application advice: owner advised to seek professional advice from an a tree specialist (known as an Arborist)</p> <p>Application checked for completeness (validation) – applicant contacted if incomplete or vague, <u>for instance, the use of percentages to describe crown reductions is not acceptable.</u></p> <p>Acknowledgement sent, application <u>and all accompanying details and documents</u> 'placed on weekly list and public web site, tree owners notified if application is made by a neighbour.</p>

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49/50	<p><i>Publicity</i></p> <p>The Council publicises <u>all details provided with</u> Tree Protection Order applications notifications to undertake work to protected trees in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applications and notices <u>and accompanying details and documents</u> are recorded on the public planning database and on the Council website. A decision will not be made within 21 days of the registration of an application or notification unless there are exceptional circumstances for doing so. • Notify Town and Parish Councils <u>are notified</u> of applications and notices within their area. • Placing Applications and notices <u>are placed</u> on the weekly lists – available to Ward Members and the public. • Advising Applicants <u>are advised</u> to contact their neighbours prior to carrying out any work. • Advising Applicants <u>are advised</u> to contact tree owners if the applications or notices relate to neighbouring trees and seek their consent if the work extends beyond the boundary.
50	<p><i>Exceptions</i></p> <p>There are instances where work is exempt from the normal tree application or notification process. The Councils' <u>Council's</u> permission is not required for cutting down or carrying out work on trees which are dead, dying or have become dangerous.</p>
50	<p>Arboricultural association <u>Association</u></p>
<p>Figure 15: How is a tree works notification for trees protected by a conservation area processed?</p>	
51	<p>Pre notification advice: owner advised to seek professional advice from an Arborist</p> <p>Owner or agent submits the notification (<u>often</u> known as a 'six week notice')</p> <p>Validation (notification checked for completeness) – applicant contacted if incomplete or vague. <u>The use of percentages to describe tree crown reductions is not recommended.</u></p> <p>Acknowledgement sent, notification <u>and all accompanying details and documents</u> placed registered on weekly list and public web site, tree owners notified if notification is made by a neighbour.</p>
<p>FIGURE 16: How is proposed tree felling to trees protected by landscape conditions or a section 106 agreement processed?</p>	
51	<p>Owner advised to seek professional advice from a tree specialist (known as an Arborist)</p>
51	<p><i>Footnote</i></p> <p>A site visit may reveal that major works which would have a significant impact on the visual amenity or health of a tree (such as a crown</p>

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	reduction greater than 30% or felling such as a crown reduction which does not follow the recommendations within the current BS 3998) relates to an important tree which is highly visible. Where sound arboricultural reasons support the proposal immediate neighbours will be notified by <u>letter and/or</u> either cards or site notice and Ward Councillors or Parish and Town Councils notified.
Other tools and tips for communities	
55	<i>Pink text bubble</i> The Council is progressing <u>As part of the preparation of</u> its first Green Infrastructure Strategy. It , the Council held a consultation launch event for stakeholders, . <u>This provided the opportunity a chance</u> to find out more and to encourage networking between the wide range of stakeholders with an impact on green infrastructure. <u>The Green Infrastructure Strategy is now adopted.</u>
66	Green Infrastructure is the term used to describe the networks of natural spaces and corridors within our urban and rural areas which support the health and wellbeing of local communities. The Council is developing <u>has adopted</u> a Strategy to make better use of these natural assets. The strategy should <u>provides a</u> valuable resources for developing neighbourhood plans.
Appendix A: community involvement toolkit	
68	<u>Please note this list is not exhaustive but is intended as a guide. The methods of engagement employed should be reasonable, appropriate and proportionate to the intended aims of the consultation.</u>
68	<i>Orange text bubble</i> These pages list a number of tried and tested methods of consultation and engagement <u>which can be used as appropriate</u> . Creativity is an important element of a stimulating and successful engagement strategy, be it through an unusual venue or quirky approach or with a more social event.
	<i>Area notification where site allocations proposed</i> Notification by letter of development proposals under consultation in local area. Letters sent to addresses in the vicinity of a proposed site allocation. The size and parameters of the area are to be determined by the size and nature of the site allocation proposed. <u>Notification of development proposals subject to consultation can be achieved in a number of ways (see also Local Publicity). Direct notification to properties adjoining a proposed site allocation is a quick and effective method of notifying those who will be affected. General notification to other properties in the vicinity of a proposed site allocation is useful in raising awareness.</u>
Appendix B: Statutory consultees	
64	<i>Specific Consultation Bodies</i> The Town & Country Planning (Local Development Planning) (England) Regulations 2004 <u>2012</u> specify that the following bodies must be consulted if the council Council considers that body will be affected by what is proposed to be covered in a Local Development Document.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities adjoining Bath & North East Somerset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bristol City Council – Mendip District Council – North Somerset Council – North Wiltshire District Council – Somerset County Council – South Gloucestershire Council – West Wiltshire District Council – Wiltshire County Council • Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency & English Nature) • Environment Agency • English Heritage (HBMC) • Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
64	<p><i>Wiltshire Parish Councils</i></p> <p>Box</p> <p>Colerne</p> <p>Limpley Stoke</p> <p>Monkton Farleigh</p> <p>Westwood</p> <p>Winsley</p> <p><u>Marshfield</u></p> <p><u>Limpley Stoke</u></p> <p><u>Monkton Farleigh</u></p> <p><u>Westwood</u></p> <p><i>South Gloucestershire</i></p> <p>Parish Councils</p> <p>Bitton</p>

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	<p>Cold Ashton Hanham Abbots Marshfield Limpley Stoke Monkton Farleigh Westwood</p>
65	<p><i>Relevant Government Departments</i></p> <p>The Government Office for the South West (GOSW) will be the first point of contact for consultation with central government departments.</p> <p>We will consult any government departments or agencies where they have large landholdings in the area covered by a LDD. This will ensure that we are fully aware of the possible need for expansion of existing facilities or the likelihood of large scale land disposals taking place within the period of time covered by the LDD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Office • Department for Education and Skills (through GOSW) • Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs • Department for Transport (through GOSW) • Department of Health (through relevant Regional Public Health Group) • Department of Trade and Industry (through GOSW) •

The Government's Technical Consultation on Planning (published July 2014)

1. The Government is currently consulting on proposals to simplify the Neighbourhood Planning process. The Government has recognised B&NES as a neighbourhood planning champion nationally; as such the changes proposed to the national regulations have been informed by (i) interviews with some of our neighbourhood planning groups and (ii) practitioner focus group including B&NES officers.
2. The changes proposed can be summarised as follows:
 - o New 10 week timeframe for deciding to designate Neighbourhood Areas, when applied for by a Parish Council (B&NES has already set up a streamlined process for this under delegated powers, which takes approx. 2 weeks)
 - o Removing one of the two 6 week statutory consultation periods required before the Plan is submitted to the Examiner (This is considered repetitive, and the change is supported)
 - o Requirement for those preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to consult certain landowners (This is already good practice, and the change is supported)
 - o Add a new basic condition for Examiner's to test the extent of consultation during Plan preparation (This is already good practice, and the change is supported)
 - o Clarify what should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority by those preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to meet EU obligations around Strategic Environmental Assessment (this is an area requiring further clarity, and the change is supported)
3. The changes to the national Neighbourhood Planning regulations will be incorporated into the B&NES Neighbourhood Planning Protocol, once these become enacted in legislation in 2014-15.