

Bromsgrove District Council

**Statement of Community Involvement
(Submission Document)**



**Pre-Submission Consultation and
Public Participation Statement**

July 2005



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1. Consultation Statement

In preparing the Bromsgrove District Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), pre-submission consultation on the issues and options for community involvement was undertaken with stakeholders.

A database was created to manage the consultation process. This database contains the details of individuals and organisations who have previously been involved in the plan making process in the District or who have expressed an interest in being involved in the future. Further to this details of statutory consultees were added and other groups who officers thought could make a valuable input into the preparation of the Districts Local Development Framework.

Local organisations, stakeholders and members of the Councils citizens panel were sent a letter inviting their input into the process, a leaflet summarising the new planning system and emphasising the importance of early community involvement and a questionnaire for their response. Appendix 1 contains a list of the consultees who were sent a letter, leaflet and questionnaire. The contents of the leaflet and the questionnaire were also placed on the Council's website (www.bromsgrove.gov.uk).

An exhibition was also held at the Annual meeting of the Bromsgrove Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Officers talked to stakeholders about community involvement in the planning process and handed out leaflets detailing the new process and a copy of the initial SCI questionnaire.

A Member working group has been set up so as to involve Members early on in the process of document production. As part of the initial consultation process the working group were consulted and a discussion took place based on the contents of the leaflet and questionnaire.

The questionnaire responses were used to help identify the most appropriate methods for public consultation in the District, clarify and identify groups and organisations who could be 'stakeholders' in the preparation of the District's Local Development Framework. The questionnaire and a summary of the results are attached as Appendix 2.

2. Public Participation Statement

The Council carried out public consultation and participation on the pre-submission draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) between 28th February 2005 and 11th April 2005. A notice was placed in the Birmingham Post, a local newspaper covering the whole of the District (Appendix 3). Copies of the Draft SCI were also made available at the Council House, Customer Service Centre and all Libraries throughout the District. Letters were also sent to statutory consultees and those who had participated in the initial round of consultation. A downloadable copy of the Draft SCI was placed on the Council's website together with the questionnaire.

Public participation workshops were also held on the 3rd March 2005. These workshops had twin purposes, the first to discuss and receive comments on the Council's Draft Statement of Community Involvement, the second to discuss wider planning issues that will need to be tackled through the Local Development Framework process. Sessions were held during the afternoon and also in the evening so as to attract a wide range of people. Invites were sent to a number of stakeholders including members of the citizens panel.

Consulttee details were taken from the consultation database (see Consultation Statement). A copy of the invite is attached as Appendix 4. A follow up press article was written by the local paper and published soon after the workshops were held (Appendix 5). Over the two sessions (afternoon and evening) around 75 people came along. Appendix 6 contains a summary of the issues raised at these meetings. Many of these issues have been incorporated into the SCI. After the workshop meetings a letter was sent to all participants thanking them for their input and providing feedback (Appendix 7).

Appendix 1 - Questionnaire Consultee List

Consulttee	Consulttee	Consulttee
Alvechurch Parish Council	Millennium Volunteers	Worcestershire Special Olympics
Barnt Green Parish Council	Drakes Cross & Walkers Heath Ward Councillor	Bromsgrove Tennis Club
Belbroughton Parish Council	Linthurst Ward Councillor	Judd Medical Ltd.
Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council	National Farmers' Union	NEW College
Beoley Parish Council	Redditch and Bromsgrove Primary Care Trust	BARN
Bourneheath Parish Council	Herefordshire & Worc's Earth Heritage Trust	Worcestershire County Council
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council	The Inland Waterways Association	New College
Clent Parish Council	The Chairman of the West Midlands Parks Forum	Stoke Heath Neighbourhood Watch
Cofton Hackett Parish Council	National Playing Fields Association	Worcestershire County Council
Dodford with Grafton Parish Council	Countryside Agency (West Midlands)	West Mercia Police Authority
Finstall Parish Council	Youth Officer-Participation & Information	Health Development Team
Frankley Parish Council	Sport England (West Midlands)	Pegasus Planning Group
Hagley Parish Council	The Worcestershire Partnership	Worcestershire Carers Unit
Hunnington Parish Council	The Worcestershire Partnership	Bromsgrove Access Group
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council	Local Sports Council	Bromsgrove Age Concern
Lickey End Parish Council	Catshill 20/20	Bromsgrove Action Group for Older People
Romsley Parish Council	David Lloyd Leisure	Weaver PLC Construction
Stoke Parish Council		Worcestershire Business Partnership
Tutnall & Copley Parish Council		Federation of Small Businesses
Wythall Parish Council		Simon N Hartshorne
Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council		Active Permissions

Consulttee
HCD Architecture
Christopher Ashton
Bromsgrove Society
Centro
Sandwell MBC
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
CPRE
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
C.P.R.E (Bromsgrove District)
Federation of Master Builders
Community First
Ramblers Association
House Builders Federation
Housing Corporation
Travel West Midlands
NSPCC
Gingerbread
Black Environment Network
Federation of Small Business
WRVS Rural Rides Bromsgrove
Bromsgrove Methodist Centre

Consulttee
Bromsgrove Christian Church
Church of God of Prophecy
Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green Parish Centre
Hagley Church Centre
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Bromsgrove and Redditch Mind
Worcestershire Tourist Board
Worcester BTCV
Bromsgrove Salvation Army
Bromsgrove Cricket Club
Schools Outreach
Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey, Tennis, Croquet Club
Bromsgrove Swimming Club
Aston Fields Workmen's Club
Bewell Head Workmen's Club
Bromsgrove Labour Club
Catshill Workmen's Club
Millfields and District Social Club
Royal British Legion Social Club
Rubery Youth Marching Band

Consulttee
Bromsgrove and District Flower Arranging Society
Bromsgrove Boaters
Belbroughton Heritage Village Society
Advantage West Midlands
West Midlands Planning Aid Service
Redditch Borough Council
Stratford on Avon District Council
Wychavon District Council
Wyre Forest District Council
South Staffordshire Council
Worcestershire County Council
The Bird Trust
North East Worcestershire College
CPRE Worcestershire Branch (CPRE)
Cyclists's Touring Club (CTC)
Environment Agency, Upper Severn Area
Friends of the Earth (FoE)
The Lickey Community Group
Wythall Ratepayers & Residents Association
Alvechurch Historic Society

Consulttee	Consulttee	Consulttee
Bromsgrove Society Local History Group	Worcester Birmingham Canal Society	Redditch & Bromsgrove Primary Care Trust
Bromsgrove Youth Centre	Worcestershire NHS Trust	Housman Society
Centro (WMPTE)	Wythall Community Association	Multi Agency Resource Centre
Clent History Society	The Abbeyfield Rubery & District Society Ltd.	Heart of England Tourist Board
CPRE - Worcestershire Branch	Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings	Herefordshire & Worcestershire Transport 2000
English Nature	Rubery Village Business Association	Victorian Society
Hagley Hall	The Woodland Trust	Open Spaces Society
Hanover Housing Association	O.G.C	Church Centre
Herefordshire and Worcestershire RIGS Group	N.E.W Hope	Worcestershire Community & Mental Health NHS Trust
Icknield Street Action Group	Avoncroft Arts Society	Diocese of Worcester/Worcester DBF
S.B.M.H.T	BROMARK	Rotary Club of North Worcestershire
The Bromsgrove Society	Bromsgrove & Redditch Advocacy Group	Royal British Legion
National Rural Enterprise Centre	Bromsgrove School	Worcestershire Racial Equality Council
National Trust - Severn Regional Offices	Bromsgrove United Charities	Sustrans
Ramblers' Association	Bromsgrove Junior Chamber	Our Bromsgrove
Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire & Worcestershire	Community First	Bromsgrove Court Leet
Rural Housing Trust	Employment Service	Bromsgrove Rovers Supporters' Group
The Caravan Club	Rotary Club - Bromsgrove	All Saints Church
The Stoke Prior Business Association	Travel West Midlands	Bromsgrove Lions Club
West Midland Arts	Worcestershire Federation of WI's	Bromsgrove Round Table
	The Prince's Trust	

Consulttee
Friends of the Earth (West Midlands)
Worcester Archaeology Society
Army Cadet Force
Bromsgrove 41 Club
Bromsgrove and District Guides and Brownies
Bromsgrove and District Twinning Association
Bromsgrove District Scouts
Bromsgrove Ladies Club
Bromsgrove Tangent Club
Burma Star Association
Girls Brigade
R A F Association, Bromsgrove & Redditch Branch
Royal Naval Association (Bromsgrove Branch)
St John Ambulance, Quadrilateral Division
The Bromsgrove Festival
The Royal British Legion (Aston Fields Branch)
W.R.V.S
Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust

Consulttee
Worcestershire Biodiversity Partnership
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
Court Leet
Bromsgrove Baptist Church
Bromsgrove United Reform Church
Multi-Agency Resource Centre
Age Concern
Alcohol Advisory Team
Bromford Housing Group
Bromsgrove & District Citizens Advice Centre
Bromsgrove CAB
Bromsgrove District Primary Care Group
Bromsgrove Homelessness Forum
Bromsgrove Mental Health Resource Centre
Bromsgrove United Charities
Brookhaven
BYHF - Baseline Service
Charford Multi Agency Resource Centre (CACTUS)
Churches Together

Consulttee
Connexions
Worcestershire Rural Housing Enabler
MIND
National Children's Home Aftercare
National House Building Council
National Housing Federation (West Midlands)
Nexus Housing Association
Racial Equality Council
Redditch & Bromsgrove PCT
Shelter
The Abbeyfield, Rubery & District Society
West Mercia Housing Group
Worcestershire County & Mental Health Trust
Youth Enquiry Service
Youth Enquiry Service
Youth Worcs
Youth Zone
West Mercia Police

Appendix 2 – Questionnaire and Summary of Responses

Copy of Questionnaire

Questionnaire: What should be in the Statement of Community Involvement?

Name.....
Organisation (if applicable).....
Address.....
.....
Telephone.....Fax.....
E-mail.....

If you **do not** wish to be contacted about the Local Development Framework process, please tick this box

Q1: Have you been involved in the planning process before - If so, how?
.....

Q2: What methods should be used to involve the 'community'?
.....
.....
.....

Q3: How should we advertise the publication of Local Development Documents?
.....
.....

Q4: Where should the documents that we intend to produce be made available?
.....
.....

Q5: Who are the key groups, businesses or other organisations that we should involve? We particularly wish to identify who are the 'hard to reach' groups.

.....
.....
.....

Q6: How should the Council publicise planning applications?

.....
.....

Q7: How should the Council involve people in the development control process?

.....
.....

Q8: How do you wish to be kept informed? e.g. Press release, letter.

.....
.....

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form and give the Council your views. Please return your completed form by 12 noon on Friday 8th October 2004 to The Council House, Burcot Lane.

Who replied to the questionnaire?

We aimed with our initial consultation to contact a variety of groups with different interests. The table below details different categories of stakeholders and how many responses we received from each category;

Category	
Education	2
Parish Council	9
Citizen's Panel	7
Business	2
Community Group	15
Service Providers	2
Government Agency	6
Environment	2

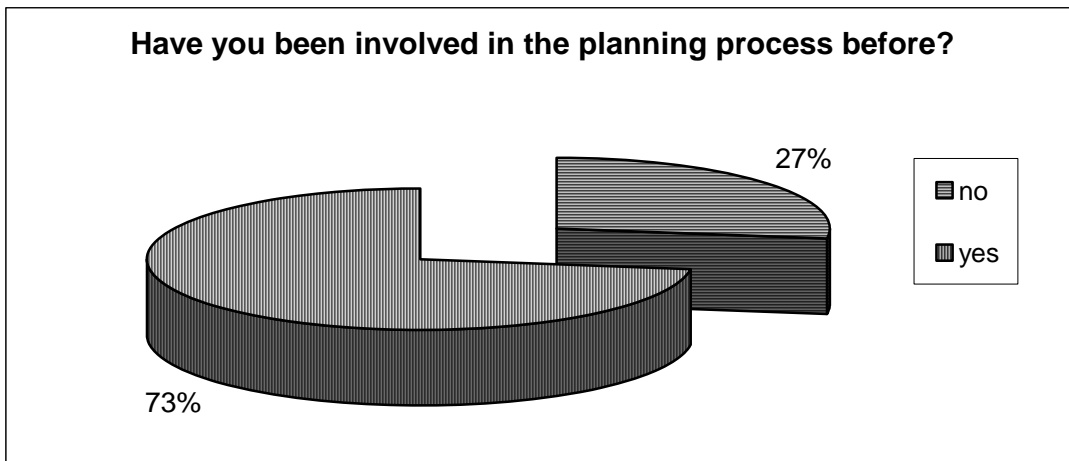
The specific people and organisations we heard from were as follows;

- Environment Agency (Government Agency and Environment)
- Parish Councils
- Citizen's Panel
- Chamber of Commerce (Business)
- Action Group for Older People (Elderly)
- National Farmer's Union (Farming Community)
- BTCV? (Environment)
- Shelter (Homeless people)
- Schools Outreach (Young People)
- Diocese of Worcester (Faith Group)
- Ramblers Association (Community Group)
- Our Lady of Perpetual Succor (Faith Group)
- Sport England (Government Agency)
- Friends of the Earth (Environment)
- Bromsgrove Rovers Supporter's Club (Community Group and Sport)

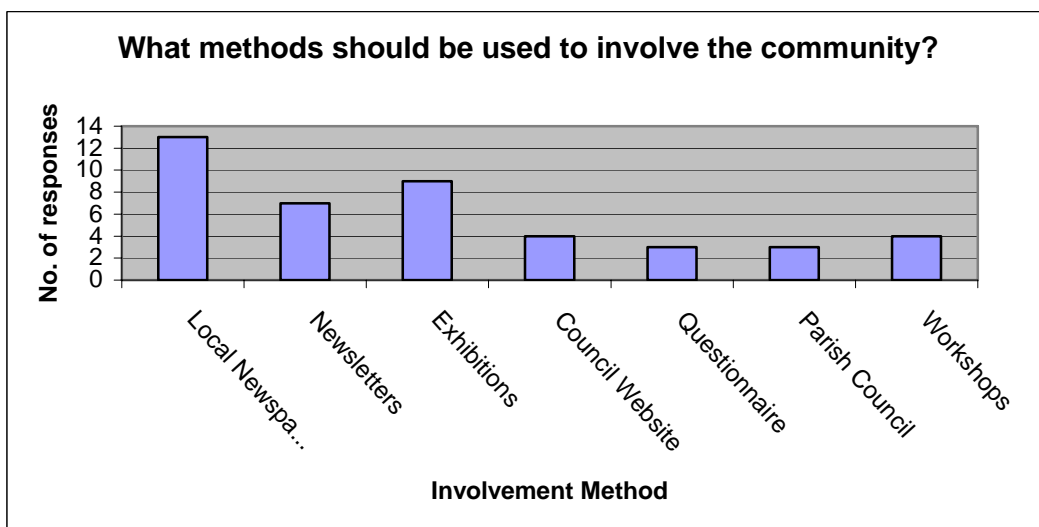
- Clent History Society (Community Group)
- “Our Bromsgrove” Society (Community Group)
- Bromford Housing Group (Housing)
- Sustrans?
- Bromsgrove Cricket Club (Community Group and Sport)
- Advantage West Midlands (Government Agency)
- The Orchard School (Education)
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (Environment)
- Stoke Heath Neighbourhood Watch (Community Group)
- The Bromsgrove Society (Community Group)
- Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (Community Group)
- Rubery Village Business Association (Business)
- King Edward VI School (Education)
- Bromsgrove District Twinning Association (Community Group)

Summary of Responses

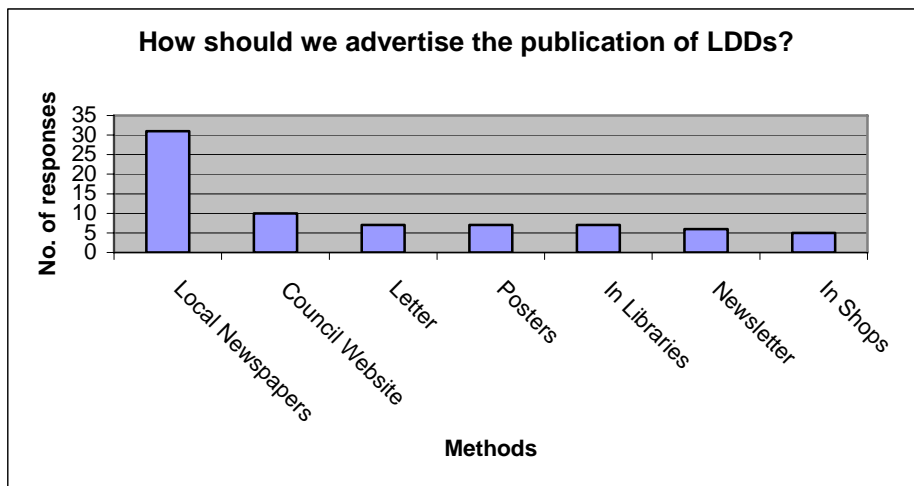
270 Questionnaires were sent out to mainly local bodies and organisations, as well as members of the public to gather opinions on the most appropriate way of conducting our consultation process. In total we received 40 returned questionnaires. A response rate of around 13%. The questionnaire asked participants if they had ever been involved in the planning process before. Around a quarter of those who responded had never been involved prior to the questionnaire.



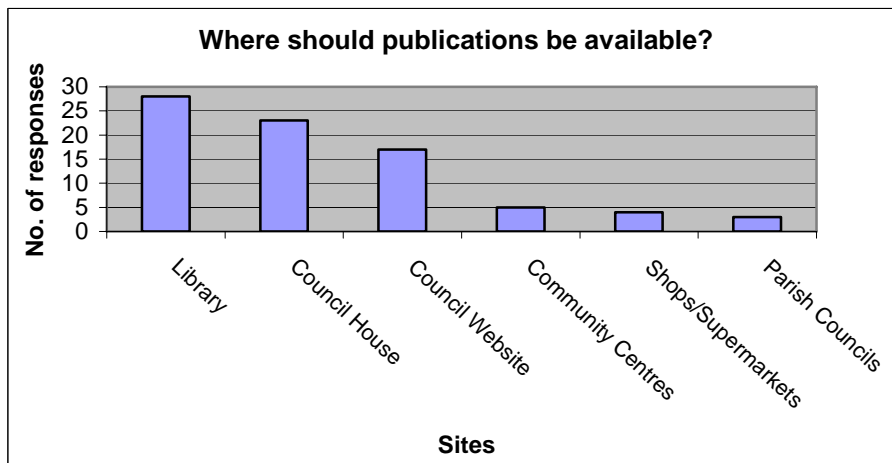
When asked what methods should be used to involve the public in planning, many positive ideas were put forward. The most common response to this question was to involve people through publicity via local newspapers and press releases. Other common responses included the production of an informative newsletter and holding planning exhibitions around the district.



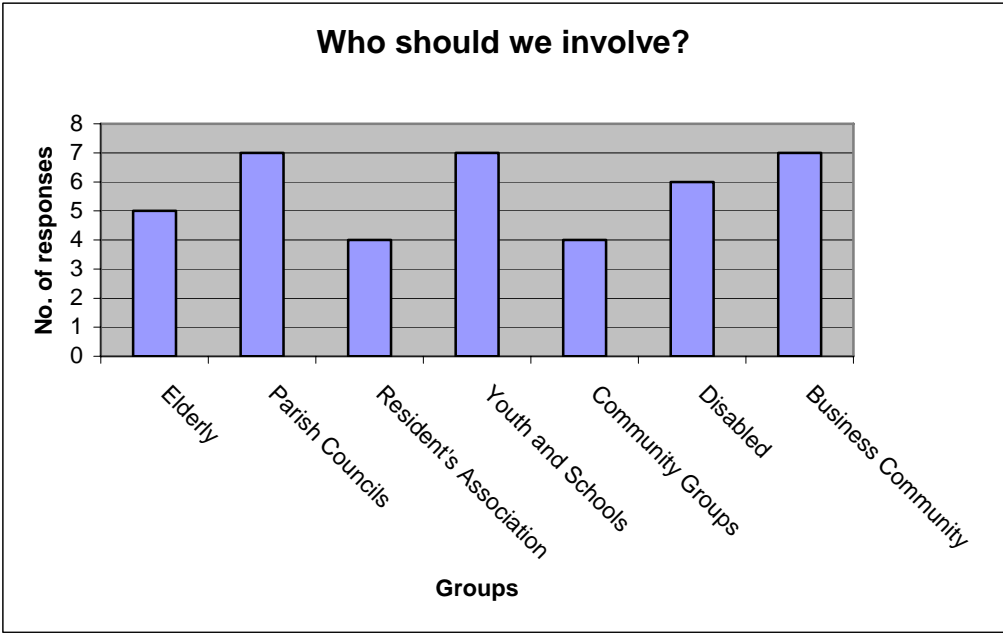
Along with the questionnaire, a leaflet was sent out explaining to people the new planning system and the importance of consultation within it. The third question that was asked was 'How should we advertise the publication of Local Development Documents?' Again we had many good ideas from the public on how to do this, many of which have been incorporated into the submission version of the Council's SCI. Once again there were some common responses, the most popular are displayed in this graph.



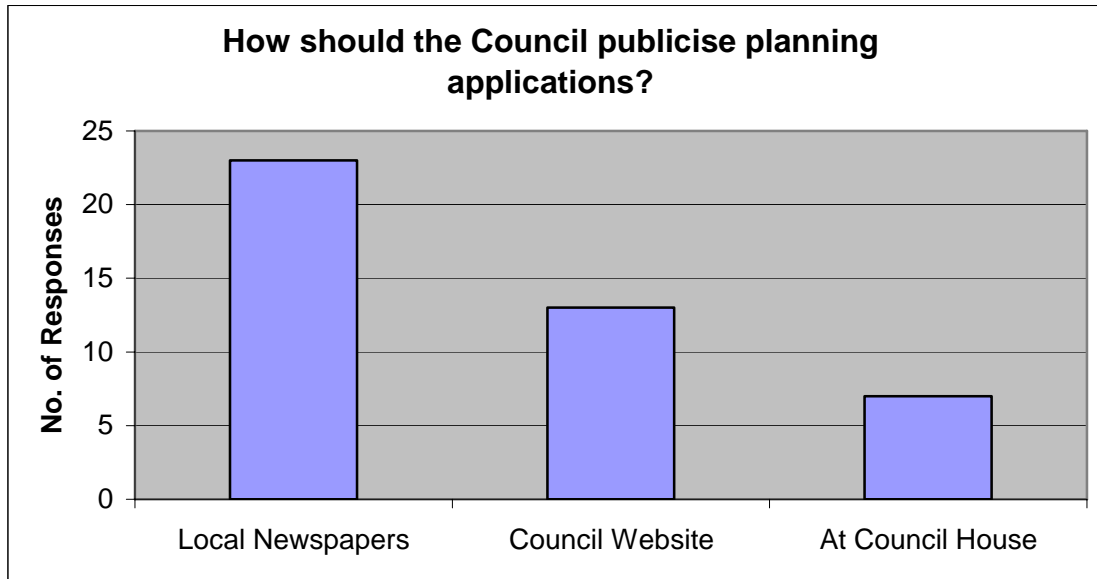
The most popular method seems to be advertising publications in local newspapers. Some more unusual answers included using Planning for Real exhibitions. The questionnaire then asked where documents should be made available to the public. Again some common answers appeared alongside some more unusual answers. The most popular response was at the local library. Other good ideas included supermarkets, as they attract a large number of people this may work well in reaching this who would not otherwise take part in the process.



Consultation is a key part of the new system. The government is putting pressure on local authorities to try and involve groups that have classified as hard to reach, through the planning system. The questionnaire asked people who they felt needed to be consulted and who they felt could be defined as hard to reach. The most common responses given when people were asked who they felt it was most important for us to make attempts to involve included. The Council have included a number of these groups in its SCI as hard to read groups and will seek to involve them more in the planning process.



The process of Development Control will also have to change under the new system, and how they conduct publicising new planning applications may have to be altered. How this should be changed was asked in the questionnaire. Most felt that publicising new planning applications in the local newspapers was important. Other commonly given answers included informing people through the council's website as well as making information available at both the council house and in libraries. New ideas put forward included planning officers talking to local residents when a major development had been proposed in their area. It was also felt that site notices were rarely read by anyone.



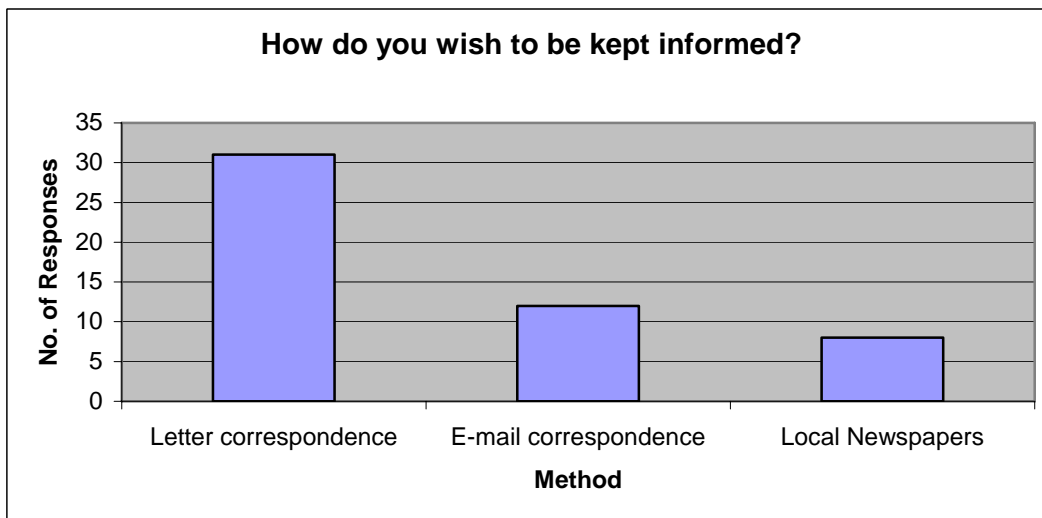
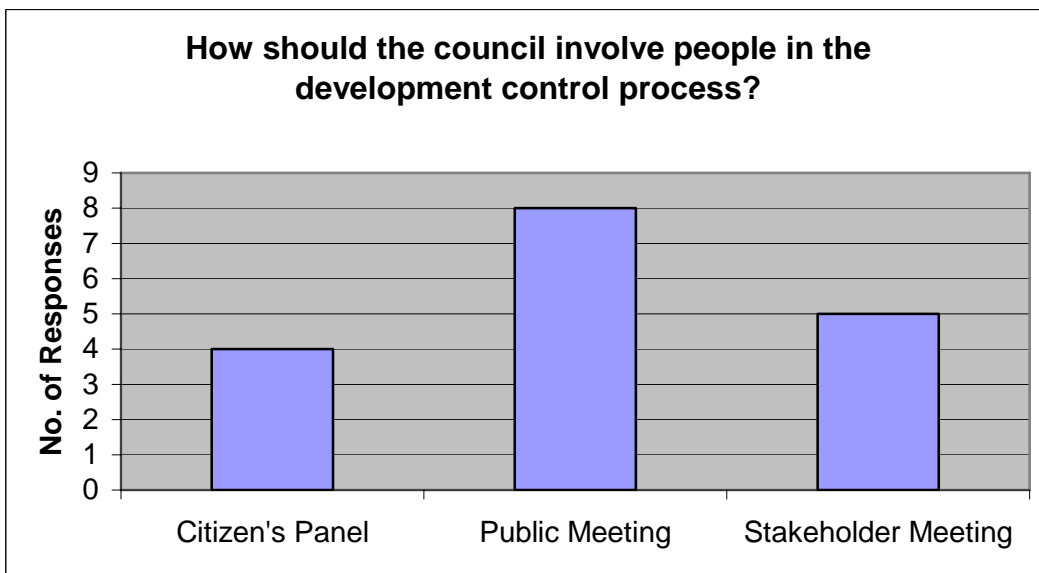
People were then asked how the public should be involved in the development control process. Many people replied that they would like to see public meetings being held for major planning applications at which people could have their opinions heard while they can still influence the process.

We then asked in which way, those people would like to be kept in touch with about the new planning system. Most people felt letters and emails were the best way for this to happen.

Other positive ideas for involvement that came out of the questionnaire included an idea about publicising plans in vacant shop fronts around the district and to put up posters in bus shelters. The point was also made that the town of Bromsgrove does not have an equivalent to the Parish Councils that exist in the more rural parts of the district was highlighted. A town council could provide a very useful contact point between planning and the community or at least neighbourhood panels for Bromsgrove.

Points were also made about the use of jargon and planning speak putting many people off getting involved in the process and that it was vital for people to be involved early on in the process so they would know they were having a real influence on plans. Some people felt that planners should be available to talk to at the council house outside of normal working hours so that people who work 9-5 could get advice also. Ideas put forward as to where planning

documents could be kept so that they may be read by as many people as possible included, Parish Halls, GP's surgeries and supermarkets. There was a feeling that consultation needed to be targeted to make it as effective as possible. Groups and individuals need to be divided up into that who will have influence over the plan and those whom the plan will impact the most, then the most appropriate way to communicate with each needs to be decided. The point was made that local newspapers should not just be used for statutory notices as these were ignored by most people. Many respondents also felt that more people needed to be directly notified through letters when developments were being planned as effects can often be wider reaching than anticipated. When issues were particularly contentious it was felt that a public meeting would be necessary.



Appendix 3 – Local press notice and press article

Press notice for statutory consultation period

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Notice of commencement of the consultation period on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement

The Draft Statement of Community Involvement outlines the issues and options regarding how the community can be involved in planning matters.

The District Council of Bromsgrove hereby gives notice that it intends to begin the statutory six-week period on consultation for the Draft Statement of Community Involvement on the 28th February 2005. Representations should be received before the 11th April 2005

Any representation about the Draft Statement of Community Involvement should be sent or delivered in writing to:

**Local Plans Section,
Planning Services,
The Council House,
Burcot Lane,
Bromsgrove,
B60 1AA**

The document can be viewed at Planning Reception, Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove on Mondays to Thursday between 8.45am and 5.15pm and Fridays between 8.45am and 4.45pm. The document can also be viewed at the following libraries:

Alvechurch, Tanyard Lane, Alvechurch

*Mon 2.30pm to 7pm
Tues 10.30am to 1pm
Thur 2.30pm to 5pm
Fri 10.30am to 1pm and 2.30pm to 5pm
Sat 10.30am to 1pm*

Catshill, Barley Mow Lane, Catshill

*Mon 3pm to 7pm
Wed 2.30pm to 5pm
Fri 2.30pm to 5pm
Sat 10am to 12.30pm*

Hagley, Worcester Road, Hagley

*Mon 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
Wed 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 7pm
Thur 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
Fri 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
Sat 9.30am to 1pm*

Wythall, May Lane, Wythall

*Mon 9.30am to 5.30pm
Tue 2pm to 8pm
Wed 9.30am to 5.30pm
Fri 9.30am to 5.30pm
Sat 9.30am to 1pm*

Bromsgrove, Stratford Road, Bromsgrove

*Mon 9.30am to 7pm
Tue 9.30am to 5pm
Wed 9.30am to 5pm
Thur 9.30am to 5pm
Fri 9.30am to 7pm
Sat 9.30am to 4pm*

Cofton Hackett, Barnt Green Road, Cofton Hackett

*Tue 2.30pm to 5pm
Wed 2.30pm to 5pm
Fri 2.30pm to 5pm and 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Sat 10am to 1pm*

Rubery, Library Way, Rubery

*Mon 10am to 5.30pm
Tue 10am to 5.30pm
Thur 10am to 5.30pm
Fri 10am to 8pm
Sat 9.30am to 1pm*

Copies can be requested by phoning 01527 881323, by e-mailing l.plans@bromsgrove.gov.uk or faxing 01527 881313. The document can also be viewed on the Council's website, www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/localplanning.



Signed
Malcolm Griffiths
Director of Planning Services
On behalf of
Bromsgrove District Council
Dated 25th February 2005

Appendix 4 – Copy of letter inviting stakeholders to the planning workshop.

Dear Sir or Madam,

An Invitation to Planning Workshop Event

The Council’s Local Plans team would like to invite you or a member of your organisation to attend our workshop day. The event will be held at the Council House, Bromsgrove and will take place on Thursday 3rd of March. For your convenience there is the option of attending the session in the afternoon or evening. You will find a map and directions attached to this letter.

The workshop day will be focusing on the new planning system, the Local Development Framework (LDF), and what this will mean for the Community. A key part of the new system is about improving community involvement through the production of a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The aim of the event will be to establish how the community will be involved in the planning process and the key issues that need to be addressed through the planning system. If you wish to see the Draft of the SCI please email Oonagh McClean at the above email address

Your attendance is very important and would be much appreciated at this event. Please confirm your attendance by returning the slip at the bottom of the page in the envelope provided,

Yours Faithfully,

Malcolm Griffiths (Head of Planning Services)

Name.....

Organistaion (if applicable).....

I would/would not like to attend the Workshop event

I would like to attend the afternoon session (2pm) / evening session (6pm)

Any specific requirements Yes/No

Appendix 5 – Copy of press article after planning workshop

New planning forum a success



● Principal planning officer Graham Brookfield and planning officer Mike Dunphy encourage residents to have their say. Picture by Marcus Mingins. 10.05.006.M MR

A NEW way to comment on planning matters was met by an enthusiastic response by Bromsgrove residents last week.

More than 50 people turned up to a workshop on planning issues at the Council House in Burcot Lane.

A spokesperson for the council said everyone was delighted with the turn-out and that they had received excellent fee-

back from residents.

Paul Crysell, the council's head of local plans said a key part of this system was the continued involvement of residents.

"Early involvement will mean people can have a real influence on the plan making process and we feel it is essential that the community get involved as the decisions taken affect everyone's lives," he said.

Appendix 6 – Summary of issues raised at workshop

Issues raised on Community Involvement

- People need things put to them in a simple, non-jargon way.
- People like to be face to face, instead of questionnaires and ticking boxes.
- Need to go to the public, not bring the public to you e.g. events.
- Improve the publicity for the website, make people know about it.
- Go to children, schools, role-play with them, put leaflets in school bags.
- People considered hard to reach included 9-5ers, single parents and the elderly.
- Use Parish Councils as a tool to engage the community.
- Public meetings (Spotlight).
- Use focus groups.
- Use the media (newspapers, radio etc) to get message across.
- People need to be involved early so their opinions can have an affect.
- Deal with local issues.
- Link to citizenship in senior schools.
- Make it interesting or controversial.

Appendix 7 – Workshop feedback letter

Dear Sir / Madam

Following your attendance at the Planning Workshop Event on the 3rd of March please find a copy of the feedback notes attached to this letter. The feedback notes contain all the comments that were collected from everyone who attended either of the two sessions. We hope you find the information useful.

Preparation work has begun on the Core Strategy for the District. The comments made in the first workshop will be fed directly into the preparation of an issues and options paper. This is due to be published in May. We will inform you closer to the time about this document and your future involvement.

Regarding the second workshop, many excellent suggestions were put forward on how we could best go about involving the community. A commonly expressed idea about getting young people involved has already resulted in a project with the Scouts being undertaken.

We really hope you enjoyed the event and that you would consider staying involved with the work we will be undertaking. Once again thank you for your attendance,

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Griffiths
Director of Planning Services

Appendix 8 – Letter to Statutory Consultees

Dear Statutory Consultee,

Draft Statement of Community Involvement

As you may already be aware the Statement of Community Involvement is a statutory part of the new planning system, the Local Development Framework (LDF). Please find enclosed a Draft version of this document, which is going out for consultation for the statutory six-week period in March 2005.

The Final SCI document will be in place to manage the community involvement work, which the Council will be undertaking regarding all planning matters throughout the LDF process. The Draft SCI puts forward the issues and options regarding community involvement to the public.

Please review this document and forward any comments you may have on it to the Local Plans Department at Bromsgrove District Council by 25.02.05. If you have any queries please contact Oonagh McClean at the email address or telephone number above,

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Griffiths
Director of Planning Services

Appendix 9 – Responses to Draft Statement of Community Involvement

The Council received a total of 14 responses during the statutory six week consultation period. Representations were received from the following organisations or individuals;

Ref No.	Name of group or Individual	Type of Representation
1	The Lickey Community Group	Comment
2	Tetlow King Planning	Support
3	The British Wind Energy Association	Comment
4	Peacock and Smith Chartered Town Planners (on behalf of Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc)	Support
5	Paul Tame (National Farmers Union)	Comment
6	Pegasus Planning Group (on behalf of Peter Grinnell)	Comment
7	Highways Agency	Objection / Comment
8	Barton Willmore Planning	Objection / Comment
9	Savills (on behalf of Taylor Woodrow, George Wimpey, Worcestershire County Council Estates Department)	Objection
10	Philip Woodhams (on behalf of Billingham and Kite Ltd)	Objection / Comment
11	Wythall Parish Council	Support / Comment
12	National Trust	Comment
13	The Littman Partnership (on behalf of the Strategic Rail Authority)	Comment
14	Wood Frampton	Comment

The following table provides a summary of comments made and the Council's response.

Ref No.	Summary of comments	Council's Response
1	<p>i) We appreciate attempts to involve the community in the policy development process. Improvements must be made in communication and administration at the Council House.</p> <p>ii) Consider public notices for all planning applications.</p> <p>iii) VDS and Parish Plans should be linked to the LDF process.</p> <p>iv) Unclear what techniques will be used in reality.</p>	<p>i) Comments noted.</p> <p>ii) The Council will, where required by regulations, advertise planning applications by public notice.</p> <p>iii) Link with Parish Plans recognised (page 7 of the SCI).</p> <p>iv) Table on page 17 of SCI details techniques to be used and when.</p>
2	<p>i) Support the Council's intention to involving the community, including hard to reach groups, throughout the LDF process.</p> <p>ii) We agree with the Council that the benefits of involving the community in the planning process include gaining local knowledge, getting community support and reducing levels of conflict in the system and promoting an inclusive society.</p> <p>iii) We welcome the intention by the Council to identify and understand the different communities within the District and fully support the identification of a broad</p>	<p>Comments and support noted. The West Midlands RSL Planning Consortium have been added to the Council's LDF consultation database.</p>

	<p>range of community groups.</p> <p>iv) We welcome the intention by the Council to develop the LDF in parallel with the Council's other strategies such as the Community Plan.</p> <p>v) We welcome the proposals to develop and maintain a contact management database of those people and organisations involved in the LDF process and would like to request that the West Midlands RSL Planning Consortium is included within this database.</p>	
3	<p>i) Follow guidance in PPS12. Consider guidance in PPS22 on informing the community about renewable energy and methods that may be appropriate at different levels in the planning process.</p> <p>ii) Local authorities should highlight the level of community involvement they consider appropriate for different types of 'significant' planning application.</p> <p>iii) British Wind Energy request that they be notified of further stages in the preparation of LDF documents.</p>	<p>i) The Council have followed guidance contained in national Planning Policy Statements.</p> <p>ii) The Council have identified the level of community involvement that will be expected for significant planning applications. The consultation methods adopted will be relevant and appropriate for the exact nature of the planning application and those to be involved. (page 25 of the SCI).</p> <p>iii) British Wind Energy have been added to the Council's LDF consultation database.</p>

4	Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc wish to be kept involved throughout the process and be kept informed about any future documents.	Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc have been added to the consultation database and will be kept informed of any future documents.
5	<p>i) Landowners and farmers (via NFU) should be consulted on draft documents in the LDF process.</p> <p>ii) Talk to a NFU local branch meeting at the right stage about draft rural land policies.</p> <p>iii) Although the internet and e-mail are useful tools for consulting, please spare a thought for those in rural areas without broadband.</p>	<p>i) The NFU and Country Landowners Association are consultees and will be kept involved throughout the LDF process.</p> <p>ii) We will endeavour at the early stage of document production to contact and seek the early involvement of local farmers through the NFU.</p> <p>iii) The Council will test the downloading of documents it places on its website and ensure that where possible documents can be downloaded by those without broadband. Hard copies of documents will still be sent out to those who request them.</p>
6	<p>i) Keeping an up-to-date website is useful along with writing to interested parties when documents are available for comment. Questionnaires, exhibitions and public meetings can be useful techniques to engage the public and keep them informed of the process.</p> <p>ii) Advertise the publication of LDDs on the Council's website, by writing to interested parties, in local newspapers and by updating people via e-mail.</p>	<p>i) The Council agree and intend to use these methods.</p> <p>ii) The Council agree and intend to use these methods.</p>

	<p>iii) Documents should be available on the Council’s website, at the Council’s offices, Neighbourhood Offices and libraries.</p> <p>iv) Add agents and key landowners to the list of groups to be involved.</p> <p>v) The LPA in conjunction with developers, landowners and agents should produce guidance or SPD to determine instances where the comments of the local community should be sought. The guidance should seek the correct balance between achieving community involvement and the need to provide development within appropriate timescales.</p>	<p>iii) Documents will be available at these locations.</p> <p>iv) Landowners have been added as they have an interest in a specific geographical area. Agents and consultants will be notified if they have indicated to us that they would like to be involved.</p> <p>v) If required the Council will, subject to resources, explore the production of additional guidance on this issue.</p>
7	<p>i) Highways Agency should be recognised as a statutory consultee.</p> <p>ii) Welcome the Council’s aim to promote greater community involvement in the process.</p> <p>iii) Welcome the encouraging of pre-application discussion. Concern that no mention is made to the involvement of statutory consultees, such as the Highways Agency, at the pre-application stage.</p>	<p>i) The Highways Agency is now recognised as a statutory consultee (Appendix 2 of SCI).</p> <p>ii) Support noted.</p> <p>iii) Statutory Consultees will where appropriate be involved at the pre-application stage.</p>

	<p>iv) Important that the Highways Agency is involved in the plan preparation process at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>v) The involvement of statutory bodies in community consultation should be considered, such as involvement in workshops and public meetings.</p>	<p>iv) Agree. All statutory consultees will be consulted at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>v) Where appropriate statutory bodies will as key stakeholders be invited to workshops and public meetings.</p>
8	<p>i) Would like specific reference to the role of landowners and developers in drawing up LDDs.</p> <p>ii) Seek further clarification on the timing and nature of community involvement for major developments. Clearer definition of the Council's statutory requirement for publicising planning applications.</p> <p>iii) Seek inclusion of a paragraph outlining the Council's policy for community involvement at planning committee.</p>	<p>i) Landowners have been added as they have an interest in a specific geographical area.</p> <p>ii) Pages 22 to 25 of the SCI have been updated. The detail of public involvement in major applications will be assessed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>iii) A note has been made on page 25 to this effect. The SCI will be updated once the trial period of public speaking has finished.</p>
9	<p>i) Stakeholder engagement in relation to strategic long term sites, to include landowners and developers.</p> <p>ii) Would like reference to key groups and their interests, including owners of Areas of Development Restraint (ADRs) sites.</p> <p>iii) Workshops for ADR sites to assess long term potential.</p>	<p>i), ii) Landowners and the development industry are included as stakeholders and will be involved when the release of long term sites is discussed.</p> <p>iii) Workshops is a method that will be considered when the potential of long term ADR sites is assessed.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>i) Lack of 'front-loading' (early community involvement).</p> <p>ii) Improvements be made to the web SCI questionnaire including the inclusion of an 'other comments' area.</p> <p>iii) More detail on budgets.</p> <p>iv) More information on how early SCI consultation will be weighted and evaluated.</p> <p>v) More clarity on the Council's policy on consultation on planning applications.</p>	<p>i) The Council agree that front loading is important in the new planning system. The importance of early community involvement in the preparation of policies has been emphasised in the submission SCI.</p> <p>ii) Comments noted.</p> <p>iii) It is not seen as necessary or appropriate to supply information on budgets. The Council will follow statutory requirements in operating the new planning system. Where budgets are capable of permitting additional work to be undertaken, or where this is deemed necessary, then the Council would normally look to resource this.</p> <p>iv) Representations and comments are normally given equal weight according to their relevance to the plan process. All will be recorded and judged on their individual merits. This document details how early SCI consultation has been used.</p> <p>v) Section12 of the SCI provides details on this.</p>
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	<p>vi) The document appears after preliminary overview to comply with the minimum legal requirements.</p> <p>vii) The development industries skills in assessing the viability of potential sites, including marketability should be included as an interest resource.</p> <p>viii) Focus groups are almost inevitably small and therefore unrepresentative.</p> <p>ix) Most options appear to concentrate on contacting in some way groups who have a particular interest. This would appear to disenfranchise those who have no special interest of sufficient force to become active in one of these groups.</p> <p>x) Properly structure social surveys are the surest way of securing a 'true' reflection of the public interest. Key opinions can be obtained using telephone techniques, and that joint working with other authorities could reduce costs.</p>	<p>vi) The Council believe they have gone beyond the minimum in the submission document.</p> <p>vii) The development industry are recognised in the SCI as a vital stakeholder in the plan making process.</p> <p>viii) Where appropriate the use of Focus Groups can be an important method of public participation. The Council is proposing to use a range of techniques.</p> <p>ix) The Council have on their database a number of bodies who have no particular interest but have asked to be kept updated. These bodies, regardless of interest will have the same chance of being involved as a specific interest group.</p> <p>x) This is one method of involvement that the Council will, where appropriate, be using.</p>
11	i) Make mention of Parish Plans and Bromsgrove's Local Strategic Partnership and how they will influence LDDs.	i) The Local Strategic Partnership will be part of the plan making process. Parish Plans, although they do not affect the SCI preparation process, do have the potential to influence

	ii) The young are a hard to reach group. They can be reached through schools and youth groups.	other parts of the LDF. ii) The Council have acknowledged that young people are a hard to reach group.
12	i) The National Trust wish to see all documents available online, would like all consultees to be notified of any new documents (preferably by email.)	i) In line with the SCI the Council will ensure that all documents are available online and that consultees will be notified of any new documents. This will be done via email and letter.
13	i) Please keep us informed of progress of the various LDDs.	i) Comment noted.
14	i) Advertise documents via website and post.	i) The Council already do this and will continue to.