

CHILWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 established a new framework for the preparation of planning policy documents on which day and day development control decisions of the Council would be based. Guidance on the new approach is set out in Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) Local Development Frameworks. Within the Local Development Framework (LDF) there is scope to prepare Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).

SPD replaces Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), which is the status which has previously been given to planning briefs and Village Design Statements which has been adopted by the Council as part of its planning policies.

Part 5 of The Town and County Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 S.I. 2004 No. 2204 on Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) requires that a sustainability appraisal be prepared as part of the process.

The purpose of a sustainability appraisal (SA) is a tool for appraising policies to assess whether they reflect the sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, economic and environmental factors) and that these have been adequately addressed. By ensuring this the SA plays an important role in demonstrating if a document is sound. The result of the SA will contribute to the reasoned justification of policies.

The four aims of sustainable development:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone,
- Effective protection of the environment,
- The prudent use of natural resources, and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

The Chilworth Village Design Statement (VDS) is supplementary to Policy D1.1 of the adopted Test Valley Borough Local Plan (BLP). This plan is 'saved' in the Council's Local Development Scheme 2005-2008. This will be replaced by Policy DES 02 of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review (BLPR), once adopted in 2006. The VDS provides further design guidance to the plan's design policies and applies to the Parish of Chilworth, except for the part within the Valley Park Ward.

A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) should only provide guidance which is supplementary or expands policies in existing development plan documents. They must be consistent with these policies and can cover a range of issues, both thematic and site specific, but must not be used to allocate land. They may take the form of design guides, area development briefs, master plan or issue-based documents. They should be subject to rigorous procedures of community involvement.

Since the Chilworth VDS does not contain any proposals there is no need for the SA to consider different options. The only option is whether a VDS should or not be undertaken. Since the preparation of a VDS is supported by The Countryside Agency and is in line with the aim of enhancing community involvement in the planning process it is considered that the principle that a VDS should be adopted as SPD is accepted. It should however be compatible with existing planning policy and provide appropriate guidance.

Adoption of a VDS as a SPD will assist in the protection and enhancement of the quality of the natural and built environment in line with the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan. It will also enable the parish council and local community to enhance their influence and participation in planning decision making, which is part of the aim of Priority 7 - A Place with Strong Local Communities of Your Test Valley, the Test Valley Community Plan.

Provided that the VDS is compatible with existing planning policy as contained in the local plan then the adoption of a VDS as a SPD should not raise any issues of concern in terms of being harmful or contrary to sustainable development principles. The existence of a VDS with SPD status should assist in maintaining the quality of the environment.

Sustainability is the guiding principle behind the Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review: Revised Deposit Draft (2004). The overall aim of the local plan has been developed from this principle and is:

To provide a framework for making decisions about development in the Borough which respects the environment, meets the needs of the community and enhances the quality of life

These three themes are refined into seven objectives which form the basis for the chapters of the plan. It is considered that the VDS should be appraised against these objectives.

1 To shape the settlement pattern by concentrating new development in and around existing built-up areas and protecting the countryside from inappropriate development

2 To protect and conserve the Borough's natural and built environment, including wildlife, landscapes, natural resources and cultural heritage

3 To ensure that proposed development is not at risk from natural or man-made hazards and will not cause or increase the risk of hazards to existing development, human health or the wider environment

4 To meet the needs for housing, employment, community facilities, tourism and infrastructure in ways that support viable communities, maintain a robust local economy and maintain the high quality environment of the Borough

5 To achieve a pattern of land use and a network of transport links that reduce the overall need to travel through the location and design of development and by encouraging the use of alternatives to the car

6 To enhance the quality of design of the built environment by ensuring the new development is visually attractive, locally distinctive, legible, safe and secure

7 To ensure that the Borough's residents can enjoy their homes and public places without undue disturbance or intrusion from neighbouring uses

Sustainability Appraisal Table

Objective	Issue	Impact
1 Shape Settlement Pattern	Development in built-up areas	+
	Protecting the countryside	+
2 Protect and Conserve	Wildlife	+
	Landscape	+
	Natural Resources	o
	Cultural Heritage	√
3 Protect from Risks	Unstable Land	o
	Flooding	o
	Contaminated Land	o
	Hazardous Installations	o
4 Meet the Needs	Housing	+
	Employment	o
	Community Facilities	o
	Tourism	o
	Infrastructure	o
5 Need to Travel	Reduced Need to Travel	o
	Safety of Movement	o
	Increase in Alternative Modes	o
6 Quality of Design	Visually Attractive	√
	Locally Distinctive	√
	Legible	+
	Safe and Secure	+
7 Amenity	Safeguard Amenity	+

Key:

- √ Potentially very positive impact
- +
- o Negligible impact or not relevant
- Potentially negative or adverse impact
- X Potentially severe negative or adverse impact

SHAPE SETTLEMENT PATTERN

The document should assist in protecting the countryside from inappropriate development, and promote improved quality of development within built-up areas.

PROTECT AND CONSERVE

Recognition within the document of the importance of wildlife, landscape and particularly cultural heritage should assist in their protection and conservation.

PROTECT FROM RISKS

The document is not generally relevant to these issues.

MEETING THE NEEDS

Needs, particularly housing should be assisted it being met in a manner which is sympathetic to the local area and takes account of its characteristics.

NEED TO TRAVEL

The document is only likely to have a minimal impact on travel and transport issues.

QUALITY OF DESIGN

The key aim of the document is to improve the quality of new development so that its design is of a high standard and reflects local distinctiveness and character.

AMENITY

The amenity of the area should be assisted in being safeguarded.