ITEM 10. APPENDIX B: Statement of Community Involvement: Summary of consultation responses received ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Respondent	Summary of comment	Council response	Recommended changes
Nailsworth Town Council	2.4: Not all authorities have chosen to opt for producing NDPs, so SDC should address how it will accept and update information contained in other, alternative plans.	This section refers to planning documents produced by the Council and NDPs produced by parish councils. It is agreed that wording should also refer to documents produced by parish councils which are then adopted by the Council as supplementary planning documents.	Amend para. 2.4 to read:

"Neighbourhood plans are produced by parish and town councils who are responsible for engaging and consulting with local communities, other consultation bodies and consultees. The District Council encourages parish and town councils to consult widely with local residents, local businesses and other interested parties through the initial engagement process. The District Council has a role to consult during the latter formal stages and will do so in accordance with the relevant regulations. We will publish information on progress with neighbourhood plans on an annual basis." |
	2.6: This should also specifically refer to trade and commerce bodies.	Trade and commerce groups are intended to be covered by the term business groups.	
	2.8: Nailsworth TC would like confirmation that our views and considerations carry more weight than those of individual residents.	Legally, Parish Council's comments do not hold more weight than an individual's comments, but it is fair to say that they are given much importance by officers and elected Members of the Council.	
	2.9: Some examples of how some of this consultation (e.g. to the disabled community) might be achieved would be useful, and how consultation documents are made available in different formats.	It is difficult to give specific examples without setting out comprehensively the methods we will employ. Some generic examples are given in para. 2.11.	
	2.10: Does this mean that all of the information, for example, used in a public display will be mirrored exactly by having a copy of the same information on the council's website? This doesn't happen at present but would be really helpful if it were to in future.	Background documents and evidence will be available to view only on the Council's website. Consultation documents that we are seeking views on will also be made available in paper format. Where possible, exhibition material will also be on the website.	
	Please give consideration for town and parish council's schedule of meetings and allow for extensions to the six week deadline, Christmas and summer holidays, to allow for considered responses.	The SCI sets out the minimum requirement for six weeks of consultation. In practice we normally extend consultation periods to eight weeks and sometimes beyond, where this coincides with holiday periods.	
	The TIC at the Sub Rooms is closing.	This is noted and references will be removed from para. 2.10.	Amend para. 2.10 to remove references to the TIC at the

	2.11: exhibitions / face to face consultation should run into the evening to allow people to attend in non-work time.	We normally hold exhibitions at a range of different locations and times to reflect different patterns of activity.	Subscriptions Rooms, Stroud.
	3.10: It would be useful to have a statement which explains if comments given by local councils (as in 2.8, above), is given more weight than comments given by individuals or other groups.	Legally, Parish Council's comments do not hold more weight than an individual's comments, but it is fair to say that they are given much importance by officers and elected Members of the Council. Para. 2.8 explains the central role they play within their communities.	
	3.15: Where we make observations or objections on planning applications, or where the public does, SDC should say how the comments have been considered and if they have been considered as material or not i.e. – we need a clear statement explaining how SDC has reached a decision.	The officer report on each application covers the comments received by all third parties and the reports seek to address these, where appropriate.	
	Nailsworth TC would like a better way of receiving notification of SDC decisions, in a form that makes it possible for us to monitor where our comments disagree with those of SDC. Perhaps this can be done with some changes in reporting on the SDC comments system?	Unfortunately, the public access software package we use cannot be modified to allow this.	
King's Stanley Parish Council	3.1 Pre application advice. This should apply to all developments, firstly because the developer, perhaps of only a very small development of two or three properties may not be local, is unlikely to know 'the neighbours' and runs a risk of alienating neighbours when an outline of the proposal might be more likely to elicit dialogue with neighbours, and may lead to the eventual application being acceptable.	Pre-application enquiries are not compulsory and wider consultation on them is at the discretion of the developer. However, the Council does encourage all developers to engage with the local community as part of the pre-application enquiry process.	No change.

3.7 Neighbour notification when an application is being processed should take into account neighbours to the rear of the site as well as lateral neighbours.	Neighbour notification letters consult all properties abutting the application site, so this will include neighbours to the rear. The only caveat to this may be when the proposed works are not seen and have no impact on the property to the rear.	
3.13 The website should make it easier for existing and proposed layouts to be viewed simultaneously for people with limited IT experience / skills.	Unfortunately the software is unable to offer this flexibility. However, the software does allow for swift switching between plans.	
It should also set out clearly what wording is required to be used if the responder is objecting.	The public access system allows the public to select what types of comments they are making.	
The process should be set out to advise who/what bodies may ask for an application to be 'called in'.	This goes beyond the scope of the SCI. Procedural matters are set out within the Council's constitution.	
4. It is essential that people who have made comments on the site are advised when the application is to be on the agenda of DCC and the rules for participation.	The public access system allows the public who wish to track an application to be notified by the change in status of an application which will alert them to it going to DCC. Unfortunately, it is not feasible for the Council to make direct contact with all interested parties.	
Where a variation or revision is made to an application, there should be easily understood text at the beginning of the document setting out exactly what this is.	The variation/revision will be submitted by the applicant and thus how it is explained is out of the control of the Council.	
If there is to be a conference/seminar or whatever before recommendations are made, it would be very useful to invite, specifically, people with only elementary IT skills, and an expert in making websites easy to use.	Comments noted and recommendations will be considered when organising seminars.	