

IVYBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Statement of Consultation

June 2015

Submitted by the qualifying body:

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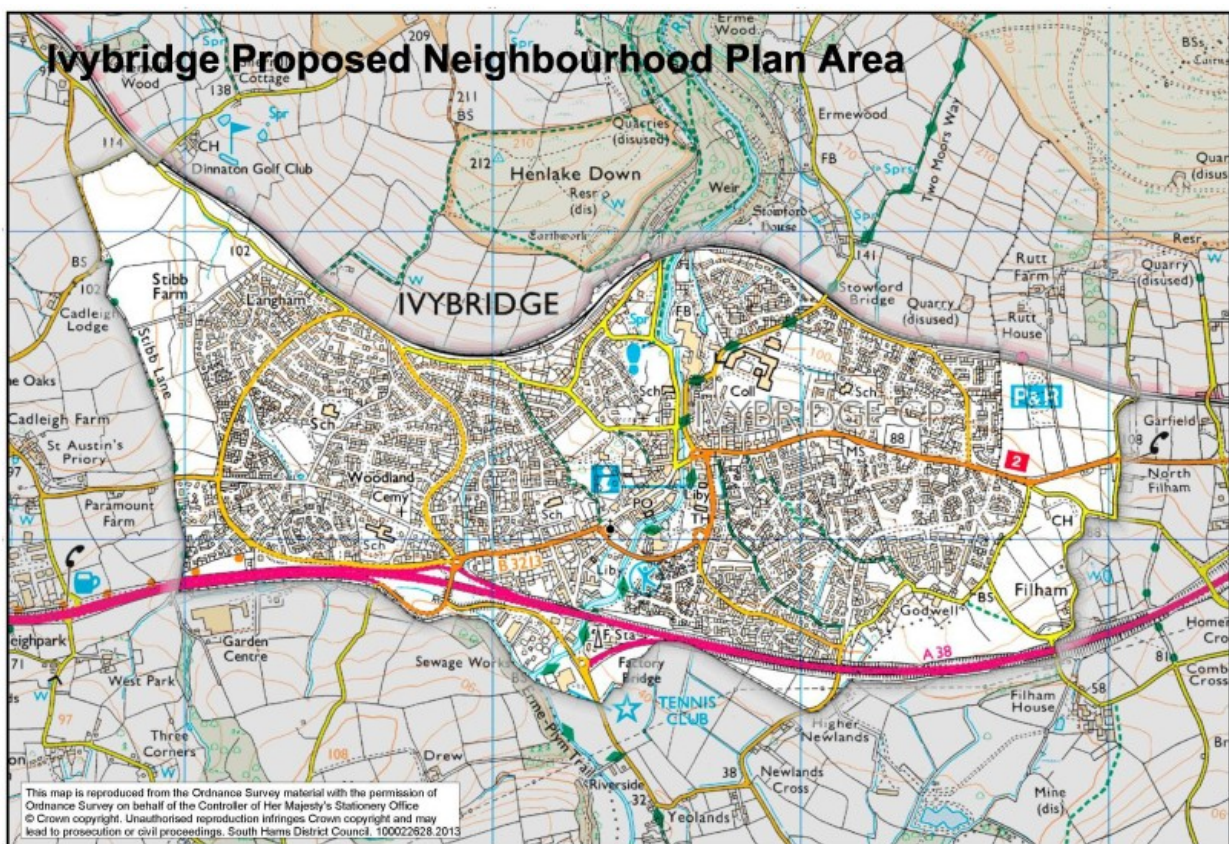
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INTRODUCTION

1. This statement sets out the consultation undertaken to inform preparation of the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan. It also sets out the way in which the consultation meets the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (hereafter referred to as “the Regulations”).
2. Ivybridge Town Council (ITC) is the qualifying body responsible for the preparation, consultation and submission of the neighbourhood plan, and has been assisted in the process by a Steering Group, focus groups and local consultants.
3. The Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan area has been designated as the whole of Ivybridge parish and a part of the adjoining parish of Ugborough. The area included within Ugborough parish is that part of the parish where development adjoining Ivybridge is proposed in earlier plans (the Ivybridge Site Allocations Development Plan Document – February 2011).



THE IVYBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

4. Ivybridge is a town of about 12,000 population lying about 10 miles east of Plymouth. It grew up on the southern slopes of Dartmoor, initially as a mill town and a staging post, then very rapidly in the latter part of the twentieth century following its designation as a location to help meet the demands for post-war growth.
5. The town's facilities have not always kept up with the pace of growth in Ivybridge and the plan aims to address this issue, particularly seeking the regeneration of the town centre.
6. The neighbourhood plan for Ivybridge is based on the Vision produced by the local community early in the plan-making process:

Ivybridge
***A friendly mill town - along the river, beside the moor -
offering healthy, creative, sustainable future lifestyles***

7. The plan includes a range of objectives under several headings:
 - **Transport and Movement** – seeking more sustainable travel and movement, better air quality and improved access for all.
 - **Sport, Leisure and Tourism** – seeking to grow the town's good sporting reputation and enhance visitor experience.
 - **Employment** – seeking to boost local job creation and investment.
 - **Shopping and Town Centre** – seeking major regeneration and investment, particularly in the town centre.
 - **Community** – seeking better community infrastructure, including improved access to the river.
 - **Environment** – seeking to protect and enhance historic and green assets
8. The local community has shaped the plan and its priorities respond to the issues and aspirations they have raised.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN EARLIER

9. Over recent decades the people of Ivybridge have sought to address the needs of the growing town. Ivybridge Town Council has been proactive in working to redress deficiencies in provision and to secure a strong future for the town. Much had been accomplished before neighbourhood planning entered the statute books, and some of that earlier work has been particularly helpful in shaping the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan.

The Prince's Foundation

10. In Spring 2011 Ivybridge Town Council approached the Prince's Foundation to deliver a community plan based on the adopted South Hams LDF Development Plan Document adopted in February 2011. The request was driven by a number of issues of which the main ones were:
 - Developer interest in the eastern extension
 - Health Centre provision within the town
 - The aspiration to see the town centre regenerated.
11. In late July 2011 the Prince's Foundation hosted a two day scoping event with stakeholders, including residents, councillors and the local planning authority. Over 70 key stakeholders attended during the two days. Appendix 3 (pages 14 and 15 extracted from the Prince's Foundation's report) sets out the issues identified, which included that the community should be involved in developing the plan and that there should be a single plan for the town rather than two.
12. In early August 2011 a planning reset meeting was held with developers, local GPs and Town, District and County Councils to help identify a location for the new health centre. An Enquiry by Design event was also proposed by the Prince's Foundation.
13. In November 2011 the four day Enquiry by Design process was held in Ivybridge, with capacity audiences of around 220 at each of the two public meetings, and well over 350 suggestions, concerns and aspirations recorded on the first evening alone (see Appendix 4, pages 16 to 19 extracted from the Prince's Foundation report).
14. The process was promoted by means of a flyer (Appendix 5), produced with the advice of Locality, which was delivered by volunteers over the space of a week, to every household in Ivybridge (some 4500 properties) and also to homes on the eastern edge of the town (part of Ugborough Parish where the "eastern development" is allocated).
15. It was recognised that not everyone might have been able to attend the local meetings and that for some it might be difficult to fully understand or engage with the issues, so consultation with specific groups was offered and notes from two of those – Memory Café and Waterside House (accommodation for the elderly) are at Appendix ?.
16. The results and proposals were presented to the public at an open meeting and these were then developed over the next month into an exhibition with display boards, questionnaire and comments book. This was hosted in The Watermark over the period from ??? December 2011 until 20th January 2012. A copy of the questionnaire and analysis of the feedback is attached at Appendix 6.
17. The exhibition was promoted by means of posters and an article in the local free publication delivered to households (article attached at Appendix ?).

The Town Team

18. When it became apparent that the proposals for the town centre were not wholly acceptable to the local planning authority, our local MP Gary Streeter, assisted the town by convening a Town Team and with the support of some Portas money brought together a group of representatives (membership attached at Appendix 7) who worked to try to develop a plan for the town.
19. This was tested at public meetings and that group, with the local planning authority, commissioned the Retail and Leisure Strategy (part of the supporting evidence base for the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan).
20. The final Town Team plan is attached at Appendix 8 and this was presented by Gary Streeter MP at a public meeting in the Watermark in December 2013, when around 60 people attended.

Other local consultation

21. In 2014 the Town Council wished to continue building on the consultation work and undertook a general community project to understand what drew people to live in Ivybridge and their view of the town, both now and hopes for the future. This work was supported under the Our Place programme.
22. It took the form of a questionnaire. There were two formats – one in Makaton to enable students from Dame Hannah Rogers School and also younger children to participate (the questionnaires are at Appendix 9). These were done in conjunction with Hannah Whiting, who was studying the community of Ivybridge as part of her Human Geography degree. Hannah also conducted some follow up one to one meetings. Her thesis is available to view at the Town Hall and the feedback from the survey work helped to create the Vision for the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan.

CONSULTATION ON SHAPING THE PLAN

23. Ivybridge Town Council took the lead to begin the plan-making process for Ivybridge. The council is the appropriate “qualifying body” under the Regulations. However, the council immediately put in place arrangements to enable community engagement in and ownership of the plan.

The Constitution / Terms of Reference and the Steering Group

24. A constitution / terms of reference were set by the Town Council as a governing framework for the plan. This can be seen at Appendix 1.

25. Ivybridge Town Council had its own Community Engagement Strategy, as part of its Quality Council status, and this has been updated in 2014 (appendix 2). The principles of this strategy were applied to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

26. A steering group was formed, drawing members from key bodies and organisations across the town. Its initial membership and that at the time of plan publication can be seen at Appendix 2.

27. The steering group meets regularly and records of its meetings can be found at (<http://www.ivybridge.gov.uk/local-information/neighbourhood-plan>).

Focus Groups

28. In early 2015 it was decided to form two focus groups to concentrate on complementary aspects of the plan. The topic areas for the groups were derived from the Vision for Ivybridge, as follows:

- Regeneration and Investment, and
- Healthy, creative, sustainable lifestyles

29. The results of the focus groups' meetings and work can be seen at <http://www.ivybridge.gov.uk/local-information/neighbourhood-plan> and have particularly influenced the plan's objectives.

CONSULTATION ONGOING

30. The draft Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan was publicised and made available for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Regulations, from 6th July to 21st August 2015. Those consultation bodies prescribed in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations were consulted.
31. Any amendments required as a result of the consultation will be made prior to the plan's submission to South Hams District Council as the local planning authority (LPA).
32. Part 5, paragraph 15 of the Regulations (see box below) sets out the requirements for the qualifying body (ITC) to submit the plan to the LPA.

Plan proposals

15. — (1) Where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority, it must include –
 - (a) a map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;
 - (b) a consultation statement;
 - (c) the proposed neighbourhood development plan; and
 - (d) a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act.

33. This document fulfils requirement (b). It also, incidentally, fulfils requirement (b).

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

34. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a consultation statement should contain:
- details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the plan;
 - an explanation of how consultation was carried out;
 - a summary of main issues and concerns raised through the consultation; and
 - a description of how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the plan.
35. This statement meets those requirements.

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

36. This section of the statement sets out the ways in which the plan meets the requirements of the legislation.

1. Persons and bodies who were consulted

37. XXXXXXXXXXXXX

2. Explanation of how consultation was carried out

38. The consultation was carried out via a strategy developed with South Hams District Council design team and supported by a small sub group who developed the Facebook page and social media strategy including Q codes and twitter feeds.

39. An advertisement announcing the start of the consultation period at the Lions Funday on 4th July 2015 was published in the Ivybridge magazine and delivered to all households in the Neighbourhood Plan area over the weekend of 27/28 June. This was supplemented by posters on noticeboards, shops and at health centres.

40. The facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/IvybridgeTC> was launched on 17th June to supplement the hard copy information.

41. Representatives of the Steering Group attended the Lions Funday on 4th July to talk to residents about the plan and encourage feedback. For the remainder of the consultation period the plan was placed in The Watermark, Ivybridge as well as being available to view and comment upon on the website.

3. Summary of main issues and concerns raised

42. XXXXXXXXXXXXX

4. Description of how those issues and concerns have been considered or addressed

43. XXXXXXXXXXXXX

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Appendix 9 - Community questionnaires and analysis summer 2014