

Matterdale Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (Part 5 s15)

Neighbourhood Development Plan Proposal - Consultation Statement

To: Lake District National Park Authority (Local Planning Authority)

By: Matterdale Parish Council (Qualifying Body)

Neighbourhood Development Plan Title: Matterdale Neighbourhood Development Plan

Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, which are set out in the Legislative basis below.

Background

An initial round of consultation took place in May 2014 for 6 weeks. This consisted of the production of an Issues and Consultation Questionnaire (See Appendix 1 as a separate document) which was delivered to all electors in the parish and the LDNPA. There were 104 responses to that consultation which represents a 32% return rate. They were equally split between Watermillock and Matterdale wards. A summary of the results of this consultation are shown in Appendix 2.

Two feedback meetings were held in Watermillock and Matterdale in July at which approximately 30 people attended at each meeting. These meetings were an opportunity for the working group to feedback the results of the consultation so far and have a question and answer session with the public.

The results of this exercise was to refine the pre-submission version of the neighbourhood plan.

A meeting was also held with the LDNPA policy officer to discuss the issues raised by the Park Authority.

Specific NDP Consultation

This Consultation Statement builds on this earlier process and is designed to meet the requirements for such a statement as set out in the regulations. In many ways the level of responses to the formal consultation reflect the general level of support given to the plan by local people through earlier processes.

It is a rule of thumb, generally acknowledged, that in planning matters it is often those who disagree with plans or decisions that are the most vocal. This has given rise to the term NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard). Whereas those who support are often the silent majority. Nevertheless to achieve the response level among the general public who support the NDP is considered a notable result and to do so with only two comments that are negative in a National Park setting is even more remarkable.

Legislative Basis

Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations sets out what a consultation statement should contain:

(a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan; (See Annex A)

(b) explains how they were consulted; (See Annex A)

(c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; (See Summary of Issues Raised) and

(d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan (See Summary of Issues Raised).

Consultation Statement

The Pre-Submission Draft Matterdale Neighbourhood Plan was published on 6th October 2014 and made available on the H&H Land and Property website (www.hhland.co.uk) and on the Lake District National Park website (www.lakedistrict.gov.uk) and on Eden District Council's website (www.eden.gov.uk) and in the locations set out in Table 1 below.

The formal parts of the Consultation Statement are contained in Annex A. Annex B contains a copy of the article within the 1st August Cumberland and Westmorland Herald.

Table 2 sets out the consultation strategy and refers to additional meetings, events, adverts and posters and other communication devices.

Table 1 - Locations where the Draft Proposal or NDO Notice was available for inspection

Parish	Location	Date	Comments
Matterdale	Watermillock Village Hall	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Available to users of the Village Hall and at Parish Meetings.
Matterdale	Watermillock Church	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Available to those attending church services and visitors
Matterdale	Royal Hotel, Dockray	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Bar copy
Matterdale	Matterdale Church	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Replenished as required
Matterdale	Matterdale Parish Notice Boards (3)	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Notices displayed
Matterdale	Brackenrigg Inn, Watermillock	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Bar Copy
Matterdale	By arrangement with the Parish Clerk	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Hard copy available on request
All	Lake District National Park Authority, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal	6 th October 2014 – 17 th November 2014	Reception copy

Table 2 - Consultation Strategy. The following additional publicity was undertaken to comply with Part 5 s15 of the Regulations.

Method or consultee responding	Area	Date	Notes or Summary of Response on the proposal
Article in 'The Cumberland and Westmorland Herald'	District wide	11 th October 2014	See Annex B
Article in 'The Cumberland and Westmorland Herald'	District wide	14 th June 2014	See Annex B – in response to the Initial consultation
Article in the Local Parish magazines 'Together' and 'Grapevine'	Matterdale Parish	June 2014	See Annex B – in response to the initial consultation
Article in the Local Parish magazines 'Together' and 'Grapevine'	Matterdale Parish	September 2014	See Annex B – update on progress
Article in the Local Parish magazines 'Together' and 'Grapevine'	Matterdale Parish	October 2014	See Annex B – in response to the pre-submission consultation
Letter to consultees	See list in Annex A (most contacted by email, those without email were contacted by post)	Email – 6 th October 2014	See Table 3 below
Environment Agency	National	05/11/14	No comment
Natural England	National	07/11/14	Satisfied that NE issues will be covered in MNP9 and MNP10
United Utilities	North West	26/06/14	No comment
ClIr Neil Hughes	County Electoral Division	6/10/14	Support for the Plan

Consultation with Electors in the Parish

There were only seven written responses from electors in the parish to the pre-submission version of the plan. Of these 5 were supportive of the proposal citing the need to ensure that development in the parish should ensure the sustainability of the community. There were also comments on sense and drafting which have been taken on board.

There were two comments that could be considered negative. These are attached in Annex D with responses to the comments made.

Consultation with Statutory Agencies

There were only two agencies that raised substantive issues. These are the LDNPA and English Heritage.

The Comments made by LDNPA are responded to in the Basic Condition Statement. The Comments made by English Heritage (EH) are considered below.

EH has written to say that MNP does not ensure that the significance of heritage assets are sustained and enhanced and the balance is heavily on the side of landscape character and visual amenity. It goes on to say that the plan is unsound and should be amended to ensure that the designated heritage assets in the Plan area are adequately dealt with and that their significance is managed appropriately. In detail, EH asks that MNP is expanded to assess the historic environment and list all the heritage assets within the plan area and propose ways of dealing with undesignated heritage assets too.

Our response is that Neighbourhood Plans must take account of National Guidance and Policy but there is no requirement that Neighbourhood Plans must consider all aspects of planning policy or consider those that it does equally. The Neighbourhood Plan must not undermine but be in general conformity with strategic policy. The MNP will not replace existing policy or guidance and will be given equal weight to those areas of policy with which it does not conflict. It is not intended that the MNP is in conflict with existing policies that are intended to protect, enhance, or conserve heritage assets. Therefore, there is no need to amend the policies within the plan.

Summary of Issues Raised

The Consultation responses fall into three main groups, no reply (37), no comment/no objection (3) and support the proposal (8) Substantive comments (4).

Those who did not reply consisted mainly of voluntary or third sector organisations that have little direct contact with Matterdale Parish (neighbouring parishes, HCA, Cumbria Action, Housing Associations, EDC)

Those who had no comment or no objection comprise mostly statutory organisations such as Natural England, United Utilities or the Environment Agency.

Those who support the proposal comprise mostly people who live in Matterdale and the local County Councillor.

The substantive comments amounting to issues or concerns about the MNP are dealt with as follows:

- LDNPA - the text of the Basic Conditions Statement deals with the matters of policy raised; drafting and corrections have been incorporated.
- EH – No changes made
- MC Emery - no change except the removal of reference to EDC.
- J Boving Foster – no change except further consideration of the Denton Hill Decision

There have been a number of minor adjustments to the text and drafting in response to comments made that will improve the document and those involved in the drafting wish to express their gratitude to all those who have responded to the consultation stages in the preparation of this plan. .

Conclusion

This Consultation Statement and its appendices are considered to comply with Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations

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Annex A Details of the persons or bodies consulted and how they were consulted

Annex B Copies of articles in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald and the Grapevine and Together from 2014

Annex C Copies of consultation material used.

Annex D Copies of comments made by objectors with responses

Annex E Comments made by LDNPA

Annex F The HRA Screening Report

Annex G The SEA Screening Report