

Dartmoor Modifications Consultation – Consultation Statement

Examination Document ED55

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out a brief statement of how the Authority has involved the local community, stakeholders and statutory bodies in the development of the Dartmoor National Park Local Plan. DNPA is not required to prepare this document at this consultation stage, but it has done so to supplement the Regulation 22 Statement submitted as part of the Local Plan examination in order to demonstrate how consultation has been carried out upon the Proposed Modifications.

Overview

The Proposed Modifications Consultation ran from the 7th June – 19th July 2021. DNPA achieved a quick turnaround time after receiving the Inspector’s comments, in order to publish the documents before the school holidays and maximise the opportunity for responses.

The following document sets out the steps taken for the consultation.

STEP 1: Advance Notice

- On the 4th May 2021 DNPA wrote to Buckfastleigh Town Council and Dean Prior Parish Councils (Clerks and Chairs) in order to give specific advance notice in relation to the proposal at Timbers Rd, as these would be the two council areas directly affected. The upcoming process and likely timetable was set out, links to background papers, notice of intended online events and an invitation to contact DNPA with any questions at that stage. No responses were received.
- On the 31st May 2021 all Parish Councils (PCs) were notified by email of the upcoming consultation. The email set out timescales, explained the scope of the consultation and provided links to background papers.
- On the 2nd June all Statutory and General Consultees were contacted with advance warning of the consultation, as were all the contacts held on the Authority’s Local Plan Mailing List.
- The Authority also gave advance notice of the consultation start on our dedicated FB and Twitter pages.



Dartmoor Local Plan
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The consultation for the Proposed Modifications on the Local Plan will begin on Monday 7th June for 6 weeks. Watch this space for more info on how to comment!
Take a look at our website for more info on the review process.
<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/.../plannin.../local-plan-review>

DARTMOOR.GOV.UK
Local Plan Review | Dartmoor

172 People reached	6 Engagements	– Distribution score	Boost Unavailable
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STEP 2: Consultation Start

A press release was published on the 4th June by the Authority, detailing the scope of the consultation and how to comment.

On the 7th June all PCs, General and Statutory Consultees and contacts on the Local Plan Mailing List were notified of the consultation start. The Authority also publicised the consultation start on our dedicated social media pages. The Facebook post publicising the beginning of the consultation reached 350 people and had 41 engagements. It was also circulated to over 40 community groups online (additional reach which cannot be measured).

The press release was picked up by a number of media outlets including the [Devon Live](#), the [Mid Devon Advertiser](#), [Teignmouth Today](#), and [Dawlish Today](#). It may also have been covered by others.

As part of the consultation DNPA prepared a specific page for the Proposed Modifications consultation – this page received 1,250 total views during the consultation period. Hard copies of the documents were also available to view at the Authorities offices.

Officers recognised that this stage of consultation could be more confusing for members of the public, and prepared a [Consultation Quick Guide](#). The link to this was shared in correspondence/ notices and the page attracted 190 total views.

Recognising also the potential difficulty in understanding the process relating to the Buckfastleigh sites, officers prepared a specific page of [Buckfastleigh FAQs](#). This page received 148 total views.

During the 6 week consultation period DNPA Members attending Parish Council meetings (known as ‘Parish Link’) were encouraged to remind Parish Councillors of the consultation and invite questions or refer questions to officers to respond. Anecdotally Authority Members reported limited interest in the modifications consultation compared with the key (Regulation 18/19) consultation stages.

STEP 3: Online Events

3 online events were planned for the consultation. The dates of these events were published in email communications, social media and on our website. To take part, those interested were asked to contact the Forward Planning team, and a link would be shared. The instructions to join the drop-in sessions (ie a simple email reply saying ‘yes’) was circulated on the 18th June to 324 contacts on the Local Plan mailing list.

On the 18th June we publicised the two drop-in sessions on Facebook through the community group pages. The post reached 5,628 people, received 196 engagements and was shared 37 times.

Town and Parish Council Workshop, 16th June

Parish and Town Councils were invited to the workshop on the 2nd June, and a reminder for RSVPs was sent on the 10th June. 24 councillors attended in total. The event included a short presentation providing an overview of the consultation and a question and answer session.

Buckfastleigh Sites Drop-In, 23rd June

Advertised as above and via the [Town Council website](#) and publicised in Buckfastleigh specific community groups on Facebook. 13 people signed up initially, via both Facebook and email. 6 people took part in the session to have their questions answered. Following the session those who did not attend were contacted to let them know they could contact us directly with any questions they may have. A number of emails were received and responded to and recurring questions led to an update of the Buckfastleigh FAQ page on the web site.



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post. At the top left is the Dartmoor Local Plan logo, which consists of a circle containing several colorful human figures. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Dartmoor Localplan ▶ Buckfastleigh, Devon" and "18 June · 🌐". Below this, the main text of the post says: "Attention Buckfastleigh residents! We are holding a public drop-in session for YOU to ask YOUR QUESTIONS about the Modifications Consultation of the Dartmoor Local Plan. Send us a message saying YES to take part." At the bottom of the post is a white rectangular graphic with the title "QUICK GUIDE: Local Plan Examination" in bold black text. Below the title is a paragraph of text: "The Dartmoor Local Plan is currently at examination. This is the final stage before we adopt the Plan. The purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Local Plan meets legal requirements and is 'sound'. We have now published a set of 'Modifications' for public consultation. This guide gives a brief overview of the process and how". To the right of this text is the Dartmoor Local Plan logo again, with the words "DARTMOOR LOCAL PLAN" underneath it.



Dartmoor Localplan ▶ Buy, Sell & Swap In Buckfastleigh, Devon!

18 June · 🌐

Attention Buckfastleigh residents! We are holding a public drop-in session for YOU to ask YOUR QUESTIONS about the Modifications Consultation of the Dartmoor Local Plan.

Send us a message saying YES to take part.

[Show Attachment](#)



Public Drop-In, 29th June

There was little response to the offer of a public drop-in. Three people/organisations signed up this event, so the decision was taken to contact these people individually to follow up on any questions they may have personally.

STEP 4: Reminders

Reminders were posted on social media during the consultation period. On the 14th July, a final call by email reminding all consultees (PCs, General and Statutory and those on the LP Mailing List) of the upcoming deadline was circulated.