



## DARTMOOR LOCAL PLAN

guiding planning applications in Dartmoor National Park

### **What is the Local Plan?**

*The Local Plan includes policies which set out what type of development is and isn't acceptable in the National Park. The Local Plan is our first consideration when we make a decision on a planning application and its policies are likely to affect you, your community, the businesses you use and land in your area.*



## **Newsletter #2**

*April 2018*

### **The Local Plan Review**

*The local plan must be kept up to date. A lot has changed since we adopted our current local plan and we are now going through the process of reviewing it.*

### **What stage have we reached?**

*We are nearing the end of the evidence gathering stage and have started writing the first draft of the Local Plan.*

*In autumn/winter 2017 we met with our larger communities to talk about development site options. Thank you to everyone who came to these, a summary report is [here](#).*

*We have been busy collating the evidence which forms the foundation of the plan's policies. The evidence '[quick guide](#)' summarises everything we have published and its purpose.*

*We have published some more reports since the last newsletter, including:*

- [Vision and Spatial Strategy Topic Paper](#)
- [Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#)
- [Minerals and Waste Topic Paper](#)
- [Transport Topic Paper](#)
- [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)
- [Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report](#)
- [DCC Climate Change Strategy Review](#)

*We welcome feedback on these. This is not a formal consultation, but please send us your thoughts, we will take these on board and make amendments if necessary.*

## **How much housing development will the next Local Plan allow?**

*In the 'Issues' consultation you told us the next Local Plan should be more flexible and include more opportunity for development in certain places. However, the recent consultation with communities has shown us that there is also concern about identifying too much land for development. The Local Plan must strike a careful balance between providing for the needs of Dartmoor's communities, and protecting this internationally important landscape.*

*Dartmoor's population has remained fairly constant over the last ten years, despite around 50 homes being built each year. Dartmoor is seeing an ageing population, smaller households, and more second homes. We are considering how to respond to this: how we meet affordable housing needs, meet the needs of an ageing population, encourage young people to stay, and sustain village populations to give shops and services the best chance of staying viable.*

*We expect the next Local Plan will continue to focus housing in the largest settlements, whilst allowing more limited development opportunities in smaller villages. We expect to allocate land in the largest settlements and require these sites deliver affordable housing to meet the National Park's needs. We do not have a nationally set delivery 'target' for housing, but the local plan will assess how many homes per year should be delivered to meet the community's needs.*

*The '[housing sites quick guide](#)' explains how we will identify or 'allocate' development sites. The first draft Local Plan will include sites identified for housing development and you will be able to comment on these. Planning for development in such a sensitive place often leads to disagreement and there will be some difficult decisions to make, but we are committed to considering your views and accommodating them wherever we can.*

## **When can you get involved?**

*We hope to complete the draft Plan in the autumn, and publish it for consultation in winter 2018/19. When it is published there will be at least 6 weeks for you to comment on the draft Local Plan. Nevertheless, there is a lot of work still to do to reach that point, and currently Government is consulting on national planning policy changes, which could affect progress.*

*Communicating with everyone is always a challenge. We currently consult using a mix of local newspapers and community magazines, direct email, our website and social media, and via parish and town councils. If you have suggestions on how we can improve, please get in touch.*

## **How to find out more?**

*We publish as much information as we can on our website. We will keep you informed of progress, and opportunities to get involved through newsletters, and our web site.*

[www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan)



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