



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, High St, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7AR

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TITLE:	Screening Statement Under Regulation 9 of the Strategic Environmental assessment Regulations 2004 (SEA) For the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan Determination Report.
Officer/Consultant	Sheila Atkinson and Michael Barker

AUTHORITY:	Town Council Meeting 12 th April minute 236/16-17
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AIM	To obtain Town Council approval that it is satisfied that the screening process for the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been carried out appropriately.
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BACKGROUND:
<p>The Government has decided that sustainability appraisals are only required for Development Plan Documents and do not apply to Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>However Neighbourhood Plans must not breach and must comply with EU and Human Rights obligations. Neighbourhood Plans therefore need to be considered against the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives and associated Regulations.</p> <p>It was therefore necessary for the Town Council to prepare a Screening Statement to determine whether the scope and matters addressed in the Neighbourhood Development plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects or impact that would require a Strategic Environmental Appraisal to be undertaken.</p> <p>The Screening Statement was prepared and published together with the NDP Regulation 14 Consultation document. The Screening Statement was sent to the statutory consultees; the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.</p> <p>A formal determination cannot be made until the statutory consultees have been consulted. Their responses are attached at the end of this report.</p>

REFERENCES / MEETINGS/ DISCUSSION
<p><i>wording for the Determination:</i></p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) Regulations 2004 the Town Council as the responsible authority has determined that an Environmental Assessment of the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required as it is unlikely</p>

to have significant environmental effects.

In making this determination the Town Council has had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations and has carried out consultation with the statutory bodies.

An assessment against Schedule 1 of the regulations was published for consultation at Regulation 14 and the written comments received from the statutory consultees”
(*Environmental Agency, Natural England & Historic England*), which are attached:

(Each reply will formulate part of the determination and will be copied into the formal response)

Subject to approval by the Town Council a copy of this determination will be sent to the consultation bodies and Telford & Wrekin Council and made available on the Town Council’s website. It will also be available on request in writing from the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Town Council RESOLVES that :

“In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) Regulations 2004 the Town Council as the responsible authority has determined that an Environmental Assessment of the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

In making this determination the Town Council has had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations and has carried out consultation with the statutory bodies.

An assessment against Schedule 1 of the regulations was published for consultation at Regulation 14 and the written comments received from the statutory consultees”.

Sheila Atkinson
1st September 2017

Environment Agency - Response received to Reg. 14

Mr. Graeme Irwin - Senior Planning Advisor
Hafren House, Welshpool Road, Shelton, Shropshire, Shrewsbury, SY3 8BB.

NEWPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ref: SV/2012/106308/AP-03/IS1-L01

I refer to your email of the 4 May 2017 in relation to the above consultation. Having reviewed the submitted Draft Neighbourhood Plan, and associated documents, I would offer the following comments for your consideration at this time.

We have been working with Telford and Wrekin Council on their emerging Local Plan submission to ensure those matters within our remit are secured within the strategic framework of the borough. Similarly, it is important that the associated Neighbourhood Plans offer robust confirmation that development is not impacted by flooding and that there is sufficient waste water infrastructure in place to accommodate growth for the duration of the plan period.

We would not, in the absence of specific sites allocated within areas of fluvial flooding, offer a bespoke comment at this time. You are advised to utilise the attached Environment Agency guidance and pro-forma which should assist you moving forward with your Plan.

However, it should be noted that the Flood Map provides an indication of 'fluvial' flood risk only. You are advised to discuss matters relating to surface water (pluvial) flooding with the drainage team at Telford and Wrekin Council in their role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

SEA Screening: Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) requires a Screening Statement to 'determine whether the scope and matters addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects that would require a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken'.

With reference to the NPPG (Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209) a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- *a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development*
- *the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan*
- *the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan"*

In consideration of matters within our remit we would raise no concerns with regard the above, and would only make substantive further comments on the plan, and the likely significant environmental effects, if you were seeking to allocate sites in Flood Zone 3 and 2 (the latter being used as the 1% climate change extent).

Natural England - Response received to Reg. 14

Rebecca Underdown - North Mercia,

Natural England

E-mail correspondence only

Planning consultation: Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 04 May 2017 which was received by Natural England on 04 May 2017.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED) THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010 (AS AMENDED)

Natural England note the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan that has been submitted. We note the policies on Green infrastructure, Open Space and Biodiversity and support the inclusion of these policies and guidance within the Neighbourhood Plan. Any policies within the Plan should be in conformity with the emerging Local Plan.

Water Lane Development Site

The proposed development for the development at Water Lane development must have been through the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment process. There must be assurances that any likely significant effects can be ruled out, due to the proximity to Newport Canal SSSI.

Newport Canal

Any restoration of Newport Canal should be done with careful consideration of the SSSI and should not be to the detrimental effect of the designated site. Any future plans to undertake work regarding the navigation section of the restoration should not be undertaken at the expense of the SSSI and the features for which it is notified. If work is to be completed on the canal, in terms of restoration, a consideration should be given to enhancing the amenity and wildlife value.

Green infrastructure

We welcome the inclusion of Green Infrastructure within the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Natural England advises that any approved scheme should incorporate well designed green infrastructure (GI) to ensure that the development is better able to be accommodated within its landscape setting. Multi-functional green infrastructure is also important to underpin the overall sustainability of the development by performing a range of functions including flood risk management, the provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and supporting biodiversity. Evidence and advice on green infrastructure, including the economic benefits of GI can be found on the Natural England [website](#).

Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Natural England note that both a Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment have been completed.

We note that the Habitats Regulations Assessment concludes that significant effects are unlikely to occur. We note that the Strategic Environmental Assessment concludes that there are unlikely to be any significant effects and has been screened out of the SEA process. Based on the information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

Protected Species

We have not assessed this application and associated documents for impacts on protected species.

Natural England has published [Standing Advice](#) on protected species.

You should apply our Standing Advice to this application as it is a material consideration in the determination of applications in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England following consultation.

The Standing Advice should not be treated as giving any indication or providing any assurance in respect of European Protected Species (EPS) that the proposed development is unlikely to affect the EPS present on the site; nor should it be interpreted as meaning that Natural England has reached any views as to whether a licence is needed (which is the developer's responsibility) or may be granted.

If you have any specific questions on aspects that are not covered by our Standing Advice for European Protected Species or have difficulty in applying it to this application please contact us with details at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Historic England - Response received to Reg. 14

Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor - West Midlands Office
Historic England
The Axis 10 Holliday Street Birmingham B1 1TG

NEWPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SEA & HRA CONSULTATION

Thank you for the above consultation.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is the Plan or proposal likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied by yourselves in your consultation to us.

On the basis of the information supplied, including that set out in the draft plan, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concur with the conclusion that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made.

If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: (web site address quoted).