

From: Wisloe Action [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: 25 October 2022 15:02
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Stroud District Council Draft Local Plan - Wisloe Action Group (WAG) Submission

Categories: Consultation response

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Dear SDC

Wisloe Action Group (WAG) has submitted a response to the SDC Draft Local Plan additional technical consultation using the online form. However, the form does not have the facility to upload supporting technical documents. Therefore, please find attached our transport report which forms an integral part to the WAG submission for this consultation.

We also wish to raise the following points with Stroud District Council with respect to their consultation process. We have also communicated these points with the Planning Inspector's Programme Officer.

1. No advance notice of the consultation was given to residents, interested groups or parish councils. The consultation commenced on the day that respondents were notified via emails. This has made it difficult to engage with experts to support our community within the consultation deadline.

2. The four week consultation period does not comply with the Stroud District Council Statement of Community Involvement (SIC) (adopted on 28/03/19).

It states in 2.10 "All Local Plan or SPD public consultations will be for a minimum of 6 weeks".

3. In Stroud District Council Statement of Community Involvement (SIC) (adopted on 28/03/19) it states that copies of consultation documents will be available for the public to view at specified locations.....". This text was deleted in the current version of the SIC. But it states that "NOTE: The deletion of the above text relating to copies of documents at specific locations will remain as long as the Government's changes to local plan regulations under the Coronavirus Act 2020 remains in place".

As there is no longer a pandemic, SDC should have made these documents available to help inform, engage and consult. In addition, no attempt was made by SDC to engage and assist interest groups or individuals as set out in 2.11 below.

- Electronically via the Council's website - as per previous consultations (which we have provided feedback to SDC), the consultation cannot be easily found. It is not published alongside every other SDC consultation, but hidden in the planning pages.

- Not a single social media post highlighting the consultation throughout the 4 week period.

- By holding online conferences or workshops or online discussion / focus groups. None were offered or took place. This could have helped interest groups and parish councils in particular to understand the technical documents being consulted upon.

Reasonable steps (set out in 2.11a) have not been taken to ensure sections of the community that don't have internet access are involved and views are captured. This is of particular relevance due to the our diversity of our community. We would wish every section of our community to be actively engaged and involved.

4. We understand that representatives, where it is relevant to their existing representations, were to be given the opportunity to comment on this additional evidence, if they so wish. We are aware that at statutory consultee (including Slimbridge Parish Council and Cam Parish Council) and some residents did not receive notification of the consultation.

The SIC states in 2.8 that "Town and Parish Councils, as the tier of government that is closest to local communities, have a central role to play in leading their communities and improving local quality of life". As the

email notification was not sent, our community would have been excluded from the process had others not informed them.

Please could you confirm receipt of this email by return.

Thank you

Regards



Chair
Wisloe Action Group (WAG)

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Regards

Wisloe Action Group