

Forward Planning & Transportation
The Planning Office
61 Wyndham Road
SALISBURY SP1 3AH

officer to contact: Mr J Meeker
direct line: 01722 434396
email: forwardplanning@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

Report

Report subject: West Grimstead Village Design Statement – Draft for Consultation

Report to: Southern Area Committee

Date: 06/10/05

Author: John Meeker – Principal Planning Officer

Purpose of report

To present to members the draft version of the West Grimstead Village Design Statement (VDS) for consideration and comment. The document was published on 1 September for public consultation in line with requirements for the preparation and adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). The public consultation period will end on 13 October.

Background

Many people feel that they have no say over what development takes place in their community; but Village Design Statements (VDSs) offer a constructive solution to this dilemma. Local communities have an unique appreciation and understanding of their own place, and a VDS is based on this knowledge. It describes the qualities that residents value in their village and its surroundings.

A Village Design Statement sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in a village, based on its character. It is an advisory document produced by the village community, not by the planning authority. It will not stop change from happening, but it can help effect how any new building fits in to the village. VDSs are intended to influence the operation of the statutory planning system, so that new development is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the immediate environment.

The West Grimstead VDS

The Document

Attached to this report is a copy of the consultation draft West Grimstead VDS which sets out a range of information about the built form of the village, its history, landscape setting as well as prescribing a number of Development Guidelines. The Development Guidelines represent a range of pointers for developers and householders to respond to when considering proposals in the village. It should also be noted that the VDS also seeks to encourage the community itself to better consider how it undertakes minor alterations to properties - for example using indigenous hedging species as opposed to fast growing conifer species.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Process

Work commenced on the West Grimstead VDS in late 2001 in response to a perceived need to provide a source of advice and information about how new development should be considered in the village.

The production of the document has been overseen by a working group drawn from the community itself and has enjoyed the arms length support of the Parish Council. During the preparation period, a number of changes to the membership have taken place, however all have made valuable contributions and should be applauded by members for their dedication and commitment to this project.

The following points aim to give a chronology of the project.

- Autumn 2001 Project commencement
- January 2002 Initial advisory meeting with planning officer
- April 2002 Publicised community event held in West Grimstead Village hall to enable local people to come and discuss the issues and develop their knowledge of the locality. Attendees to the open day exceeded 100, which for a community of that size is outstanding.
- Autumn 2002 Further liaison with planning officer regarding advanced draft
- 2003-04 Liaison between working group and planning officer on revised drafts
- June 2005 Drawing together of final draft and graphic design work
- July 2005 Agreement of draft for public consultation
- 1st September Commencement of Public Consultation exercise
- 11th September Publicised community event held in West Grimstead Village. Attendance by around 40 local people

What Happens Next ?

The formal consultation period for the West Grimstead VDS concludes on 13th October. After this date, officers will prepare a full summary of the issues raised and consider responses and appropriate changes to the document in association with the West Grimstead VDS Group. Once the changes have been incorporated into the document a second report will be presented to Southern Area Committee which will recommend that the document be referred to Cabinet for adoption as formal Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Salisbury District Local Plan. Following adoption the guidance will then become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications in relation to West Grimstead.

Recommendation

- a) **That members note the efforts of the West Grimstead Village Design Statement Group in drawing this document together.**
- b) **That members make comment on the presented draft West Grimstead VDS for consideration at the end of the formal consultation period.**

Background Papers:

Salisbury District Local Plan (SDC, June 2003)

Village Design Guidance – Making local character count in new development (Countryside Commission, 1996)

Implications:

- **Financial:** None
- **Legal:** None
- **Human Rights-** No implications – the legislative process governing the adoption process ensures that the views of individuals are taken into account.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** No change from scheme already approved
- **Environmental implications:** Visual impact if trees are lost.
- **Council's Core Values:** Providing Excellent Service, Being Environmentally Conscientious, Being Fair & Equitable, Open, Learning Council and Willing partner
- **Wards Affected:** Alderbury