



Slimbridge Consultation Audit Trail

December 2016

The purpose of this document is to provide evidence that the Slimbridge Village Design Statement was prepared with a sufficient degree of engagement and consultation as to ensure that it fairly reflects the views and opinions of the whole local community and also takes account of relevant concerns of surrounding parishes, local authorities and other interested bodies.

Slimbridge Parish Council resolved in their August meeting of 2012 to undertake a VDS and invited interested parishioners to participate in the making of this.

In the preparation of the VDS it required the involvement of parishioners, public bodies and other relevant organisations to ensure that the document reflected the views and wishes of local residents and is in alignment with the policies and practices of Stroud District Council (SDC) and other interested bodies.

During the community involvement, efforts were made to engage local residents in the preparation of the VDS. This was done through open events where parishioners undertook a number of street surveys and took many photos around the parish. Involvement was had with Slimbridge Primary School and the Slimbridge Local History Society to collate various viewpoints and historical information.

Then during the consultation the draft document was made widely available for review and comment both by members of the public and formal consultees. This was e-mailed or posted out to public bodies and an open drop in event was held for members of the parish.

Following the consultation period the document was revised to address comments and suggestions received and was reissued as a final for adoption by Slimbridge Parish Council and then SDC. Further information on the consultation period and the responses are addressed after the audit trail below.

The audit trail in Appendix 1 and 2 demonstrates the involvement of the community and professional bodies who assisted in the making of the VDS.

The VDS was launched for public consultation on 5th September 2016 allowing a period of six weeks for the return of comments. Parishioners were advised of the consultation by information in the Village Newsletter delivered to every household, e-mails, website and public notices on the notice boards. An open day drop in event was also held for parishioners to view the VDS and leave comments. The document was available online through the Parish Council website.






Various potentially interested bodies were contacted by email to advise of the consultation, including but not limited to: Gloucestershire CC Highways, Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage and Cotswold Conservation Board. Comments that were received from both public bodies and parishioners are demonstrated in Appendices 3 and 4 with a list of actions taken.

The final issue of the VDS for adoption was amended to take account of all the comments received.

The consultation process did not result in any substantial changes to the guidelines as originally drafted, but more supporting information and clarification was added in places.

It is our belief that the Slimbridge Village Design Statement, has been prepared fully in conformance with applicable guidance on the scope and content for a design statement.

Appendix 1

Date	Action
August 2012	Parish Council resolve to undertake Village Design Statement
September 2012	Parish Council meet with GRCC to begin process
September 2012	Open morning to introduce VDS and gather volunteers
October 2012	Meetings with GRCC to put together a workshop day
November 2012	<p>Open day workshop. Many residents attended to complete surveys and volunteer information and assistance for the VDS. Volunteers take away street surveys to complete and return to Parish Council. Volunteers offer to take photos around the Parish Slimbridge Local History Society offer to provide information on the village</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
December 2012	<p>GRCC work with Slimbridge Primary School to get the views of the children. See Appendix 2 for further information on this.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 20px;">  <div data-bbox="1066 1686 1350 1821" style="width: 30%;"> <p>A 3D map created by the children of Slimbridge Primary school</p> </div> </div>

January 2013	Initial draft outline sent to Conrad Moore for comments
April 2013	Comments received back from Conrad Moore
July 2013	Meeting with GRCC to assist in moving along the plan
March 2014	Meeting with GRCC to get back on track
June 2014	Revised VDS to be drawn up and reconstructed based on gathered evidence and original draft.
November 2014	Meeting with GRCC to check on progress
January 2015 – November 2015	Gathering further information for the VDS, draft version 5 submitted to Conrad Moore in November
January 2016	Clerk met with Conrad Moore, recommendations for minor changes. Advice given on completion for VDS
June 2016	Draft document sent to Conrad Moore at SDC
5th September – 17th October 2016	Public consultation of the VDS
September 20th 2016	Open day public consultation drop in event
17th November 2016	Clerk met with Conrad Moore at SDC for advice on comments received during the consultation period.
December 2016	Amendments made and copy sent to parish councillors, Conrad Moore and put on the website for public to see.

Appendix 2

Slimbridge Village School



Slimbridge Village School has been part of the community since the early 1900's. It was one of the first schools in the County to be built by the Gloucestershire Education Committee. It opened on the 23rd April 1906. The School House was built in 1924 and occupied by succeeding heads until 1970 when it was sold. In 1938 water and electricity were connected. During 1964 main sewerage was bought to the village and the following year the terrapin sanitation units were installed.

A Parent teachers Association which had run for some years was closed in 1970, but in 1980 a committee was formed to organise Friends of Slimbridge School which still flourishes and uses every opportunity to raise funds for much needed equipment.

There are 5 classrooms, and the Little Otters Playgroup is also part of the school.

Slimbridge School and the children were greatly involved in the Village Design Statement. As part of their lessons they carried out some of the street surveys, they designed a model of Slimbridge with the help of Katie Lea from 'Locality' and Marilyn Cox from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

The children have also done many pictures of their own thoughts on the community of Slimbridge. This takes into consideration their values of the parish from their point of view and with them being the future generation these are considerations to be cherished.



My favourite place in Slimbridge
is the post office because it has chocolate
and lots of work films its so nice. This
is the end of the world. BY Charlie Cox.



My Favourite
Place in
Slimbridge is
Church
I love the church because we do sing in there together
its a nice place to go because there is no one
I love it because there is no one there.



My favourite place in Slingsby is the canal because I can go kayaking in my yellow and orange kayak. I also like sitting up close to the ducks and seeing the detail in their feathers and colour. I especially like seeing the massive waterfalls and they look tasty.

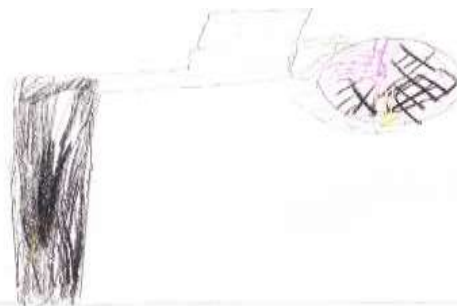
by Elyse Grogan



My favorite place in Slingsby is the canal because I can go kayaking and do fun things and do lots of work and have fun with my friends and well things.

My favourite place in Slingsby is the canal because I can go kayaking and do fun things and do lots of work and have fun with my friends and well things. There is a park and house there. There is a street for that. (Can't remember!)

6th year



My favourite place in Slingsby is the canal because I can go kayaking and do fun things and do lots of work and have fun with my friends and well things. There is a park and house there. There is a street for that. (Can't remember!)

Appendix 3

Responses from Slimbridge VDS 6 week consultation:

Responded but with no further comments:

Historic England

Hinton Parish Council

Highways England

Eastington Parish Council

Marine Management

Responded with recommendations:

Response from	Recommendations	Changes completed
<p>Glos County Council</p>	<p>Dear Mrs Dunn Thank you for consulting Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) on the draft Slimbridge Village Design Statement. I have the following officer level comments to make.</p> <p>Ecology Comments <u>SEA/HRA Screening advice for the Village Design Statement (VDS)</u> Looking at biodiversity as a theme, the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the VDS appears unlikely. Our conclusion is also that although a European Site (Severn Estuary) is present in the parish a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is also not required but this should be compared with the views of Stroud District Council.</p> <p><u>GCC Ecology Observations on VDS Content</u> We can see that the Local Records Centre, GCER, has been contacted and this is appropriate to do. The topic of biodiversity (ecology/wildlife) is adequately covered in the document particularly in the guidelines section (SLN) where woodland, orchards, hedgerows, trees and other ecological features are highlighted for conservation and enhancement. .</p>	<p>After meeting with Conrad Moore from SDC, this was noted and Slimbridge Parish Council is fully compliant with the Stroud Local Plan, and therefore an HRA or SEA is not required. It has been noted that there may be a possible mitigation contribution by developers required (as in Rodborough) for development around the Severn Estuary – therefore any new houses would need to mitigate the identified impacts on the Severn Estuary, based on recent studies. (Stroud Local Plan pg 163 p6.40, and also policy ES6)</p>

	<p>On page 18 it is recommended that the second sentence on Ramsar is edited to become <i>“The following map shows where the Severn Estuary Ramsar site is located within Slimbridge Parish.”</i></p> <p>It is suggested that the first sentence on page 19 is also edited to read as follows: <i>“The Wetlands Trust and the River Severn also fall within the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation. (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) where, under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Competent Authorities have a duty to ensure that all the activities they regulate have no adverse effect on the integrity of any of these sites.”</i></p> <p>Archaeology Comments <i>While the listed buildings of the parish are detailed in the VDS, it might be useful to add that the Rectory Moat is a Scheduled Monument, as the setting of this will have to be taken into consideration in relation to any nearby proposed development in the same way as for the listed buildings.</i></p> <p>Flood Risk Management The Lead Local Flood Authority will fulfil its statutory duty to provide advice to the Local Planning Authority when requested to do so regarding the management of surface water relating to major planning applications with the aim of ensuring related flood risk is managed as effectively as possible. If you would like to discuss any of the points raised above please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you Rob Niblett Planning Officer</p>	<p>The recommended wording has been changed in the text.</p> <p>This has been added and support is welcomed.</p> <p>The Parish Council will continue to work with SDC and GCC</p>
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Please find attached our comments in response to the above consultation, received on 31 August 2016. I trust the attached is of assistance. Kind regards Anita Anita Bolton Planning Advisor Sustainable Places Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire Environment Agency – West Midlands Area</p>	<p>Comments noted. Slimbridge VDS is in conformity with Stroud local Plan and the NPPF</p>

	<p>Dear Mrs. Dunn</p> <p>Slimbridge Village Design Statement Consultation</p> <p>Thank you for referring the above consultation, received on 31 August 2016. We sent Stroud District Council a copy of our Neighbourhood Plan pro-forma guidance in November 2015, for distribution to Parish Councils. The purpose of the guidance is to assist primarily in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans, including an appropriate evidence base. However much of the information contained may also be of use in the preparation of Supplementary Planning Advice. This includes consideration of some of the relevant environmental issues that should be considered, including flood risk (from rivers and sea), water quality, and water resources and includes latest Climate Change recommendations for flood risk. Since we produced this guidance we have updated our climate change allowances for planners. See Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances for more information.</p> <p>For any proposed site allocation, we recommend completing the pro-forma to check the environmental constraints. This will help collect evidence, identify challenges, inform policy and assist delivery of sustainable solutions.</p> <p>We note there does not appear to be any additional site allocations proposed within the Plan. We would only make substantive further comments on the plan if it were seeking to allocate sites in Flood Zones 2 or 3 (the latter being used as the 100 year climate change extent). Furthermore, we do not offer detailed bespoke advice on policy but advise there is conformity with the Local Plan and refer to our guidance. This might assist with your consideration of a local environmental enhancements or improvement policies that may be necessary.</p> <p>I trust that the above is of use to you at this time</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>Mrs Anita Bolton Planning Advisor</p>	
Natural England	<p>Dear Mrs Dunn,</p> <p>Slimbridge Village Design Statement</p> <p>Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 31 August 2016, which was received by Natural England on the same date.</p> <p>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</p>	

	<p>benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes design guidelines that respect, and where possible, enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature.</p> <p>The following is offered as general advice which we would expect to have been considered in the preparation of a Town or Village Design Statement:</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>To preserve the wider landscape character of area, the Town or Village Design Statement should recognise and give appropriate consideration to the impact of the design statement on protected landscapes such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), if the town or village is within or adjacent to one.</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) provide a context for looking at possible changes and for seeking to ensure that the countryside character is protected and enhanced. Local area LCAs and those for protected landscapes (where applicable), should be cross-referenced as they are a useful tool to ensure that the Village Design Statement makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape, and avoids any unacceptable impacts. Following the principles of LCA at a local scale helps to capture the significant features, style and patterns of settlement and setting within the landscape and key views in and around the village. National Park and AONB Management Plans can also provide useful information for design statements within or adjoining protected landscapes.</p> <p>Natural England is revising the suite of 159 National Character Area (NCA) profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience. NCA profiles are guidance documents which include a description of the key ecosystem services provided in each character area and how these benefit people, wildlife and the economy. Page 2 of 2</p> <p>They identify potential opportunities for positive environmental change and provide the best available information and evidence as a context for local decision making and action.</p>	<p>The Stroud Local Character Assessment 2000 has been referred to in the VDS.</p>
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	<p>The revised and current NCA profiles are available on the NCA pages of our website for you to refer to. The complete series of revised profiles will be published by April 2014.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Design</p> <p>Green infrastructure is a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. It is often used in an urban context to cover the benefits including space for recreation, access to nature, flood storage and urban cooling to support climate change mitigation, food production, wildlife habitats and health & well-being improvements provided by trees, rights of way, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands.</p> <p>Green infrastructure is also relevant in a rural context, where it might additionally refer to the use of farmland, woodland, wetlands or other natural features to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification. Green infrastructure maintains critical ecological links between town and country.</p> <p>The Design Statement could usefully promote high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance provides an introduction to delivering green infrastructure at the micro and neighbourhood scale through features such as street trees, green facades and green roofs, where consistent with the local character. These features can be extremely important in increasing ecological connectivity between green spaces, particularly when footpaths and green corridors are not feasible.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>The Design Statement should have recognised and referenced designated wildlife sites¹ and other biodiversity assets in the immediate area, such as protected species, ecological networks, habitats and green spaces. Design guidelines should respect, and where possible, enhance the town or village's local and neighbouring biodiversity resources. The Town and Country Planning Association has produced a practical and design orientated Biodiversity by Design guide to achieving high levels of biodiversity in developments, which may be of use. When preparing the Design Statement, your local Wildlife Trust and local environmental record centre should have been consulted, and local and national Biodiversity Action Plans should be referenced where relevant.</p> <p>¹ Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas, Ramsar, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites</p>	<p>After meeting with Conrad Moore of SDC, it has been noted that SDC are working on a Green Infrastructure document and the Parish are happy to work with SDC as they develop this strategy</p> <p>Documents are welcomed for use.</p>
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	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>As an organisation, we are committed to involving the community in our work, ensuring that local people and the organisations that support them are consulted at the earliest possible stage. We are keen to see this principle adopted as part of the village design statement formulation process so that local people have a chance to contribute to the development of the statements from the outset.</p> <p>We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Victoria Kirkham Consultations Team</p>	
Sustrans	<p>Good morning</p> <p>Thank you for consulting us on this.</p> <p>Sustrans is the charity that promotes active travel, walking and cycling, for everyday journeys to benefit people's health and their environment.</p> <p>It is disappointing that the National Cycle Network which passes through Slimbridge and along the canal is not referenced in the statement, though policy seems to encourage walking and cycling. I suggest that the statement is varied to recognise the NCN and its significance for the many people who use it, and its contribution to the local economy, and that measures to enhance and maintain the routes are encouraged.</p> <p>Regards Rupert Rupert Crosbee Network Development Manager</p>	<p>The Sustrans route 41 has now been mentioned in a number of places. This was also brought to our attention from parishioners</p>
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	<p>Hi Helen</p> <p>Thank you for the email, it makes for very interesting reading. I don't have any comments myself except to say that we are called the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, would you please look through the document and make this consistent as there are various annotations. I will pass the document on to the building and design team in head office for their comment.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>These amendments have been made and is consistent throughout the document.</p>

	<p>Gary Haseley-Nejrup General Manager WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre</p>	
<p>Parishioners comments</p>	<p>Speed limits are mentioned a number of times for Slimbridge and the A38 and yet not mentioned for Wisloe road, Dursley Road and Barton Fields (a housing estate!) all of which are 50 or 60 MPH! And people certainly try to achieve those speeds and more, even though there are few pavements, children walking to and from the school bus stops, horse riders, cyclist, walkers and farm machinery. Wisloe Road Business park shares it Postcode with the local houses and large lorries (or anyone using Satnavs) are frequently found reversing 100 yard back down the 50-60mph road to get back around the corner so they can enter the estate, or attempting to turn around in drives.</p> <p>Slimbridge Roads and Footpaths (SRF) Re: Key objectives: "To have sufficient off road parking for each development in the parish." Before the all the houses in Barton Fields were occupied they ran out of space were parking on the pavements and now even up against the gate to the footpath so no one can use it except when the Audi is not there. "Slimbridge Employment and Infrastructure (SEI)" What about Employment? How many people work in the Parish, how many Parishioners work in the Parish and how many people in the parish are looking for work? Have the new Units at Wisloe Road Business Park meant any Locals were employed?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>It would be useful to refer back to the Slimbridge Parish Plan 2010 and explain how the VDS differs and build on that. There is a lot of useful data in the Village Plan.</p> <p>There is no direct link to Cam and Dursley railway station, since the car park is frequently full, this reduces the value of the station to Slimbridge. The main areas of Slimbridge have street lighting, following support from the Slimbridge Plan, some of the lights are turned off for part of the night. SDC have plans to replace sodium lights with LED lighting. This will reduce power usage and light pollution.</p> <p>With new house building in Cam and Dursley, the A38 can only get busier. Proposals have been made for a new junction on the M5 which could have significant impact</p>	<p>All comments have been noted and some modifications have been implemented into the VDS.</p>

either increasing traffic (A38 as a feeder to the new junction) or decreasing traffic (by diverting traffic onto the M5). Additionally a new junction would attract industry and services which would have an impact on Slimbridge Village. The M5 generates a significant amount of noise pollution which can sometimes be heard as far away as the canal.

Would it be worth having a section on potential developments which could have an impact on Slimbridge? For example and new M5 junction or a road bridge across the Severn, a new nuclear power station at Oldbury on Severn – the scale of this is likely to have opportunities and impacts. We might not be able to say exactly what the impacts might be, but we should acknowledge there will be an impact. Anything else on the horizon?

In addition to affordable houses, I would recommend 2 or 3 bedroom bungalows with small gardens would attract older people in larger houses, therefore freeing up properties with younger families with children. Although there is a significant fraction of retired people in the parish (41% in 2010 Parish Plan) are not always in appropriate accommodation.

Should we also encourage developments which would provide local employment without damaging the rural nature of the parish? For example we could welcome care homes for the elderly, hotels to serve local tourism and a new M5 junction.

Hi Helen,

Thanks for all your work on getting this close to completion and for including the sewage and drainage issues in the guidelines.

There are a few minor points I noticed:

The use of the name of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust is inconsistent throughout out the document. In particular:

P8 Wetlands Trust and later without explanation just WWT twice

P13 Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust (WWT)

P14 WWT

P16 Wild Fowl

P19 Wetlands Trust

P23 Wetlands and Wildlife

	<p>P24 reverts to WWT without explanation P30 WWT P31 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust then later WWT P34 Wetland should be plural I would suggest including the correct, full name, at the first opportunity and follow with the abbreviation WWT and then use that for the rest of the document P13 25years no space P15 STW - I may have missed it earlier but I think it needs to be in full the first time P16 I don't believe these are the Glebe Fields. It's not the best picture, but I've attached one which at least partially shows the fields currently owned by the diocese beyond Eric's house. P24 Berkeley Court - this doesn't seem to refer to anything P28 Line 5 - should be remainder P30 Line 8 - should be from Tudor times P32 The Black Shed was never used for the storage of munitions and certainly not in WWII. I quote from my presentation notes on the Slimbridge Magazine which you will probably want to précis. <i>On the 5th April 1910 there was a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Sharpness New Docks & Gloucester & Birmingham Navigation Company held at the Dock Office, Gloucester. The General Manager reported that Mr. Workman of Cam Flour Mills had met with him with reference to renting land near the Patch Bridge for storing grain to the extent of 2,000 sacks. He hoped to bring in about 1,000 sacks of grain a week from Sharpness and they wished the company to erect a shed. The Committee recommended that the Company put up the shed at a cost not exceeding £250, and charge Messrs. Workman £20 for ground rent and rent of the shed. But in case that they should not require the shed at a future date they should pay the Company £200 towards the cost with power to remove. By the 15th June it had been decided that Workman's should pay for building the shed and consequently the rent was reduced to £12 a year.</i> <i>In November 1915 the Government instructed the Navigation Company to reinforce the wharf including inserting concrete blocks under the floor of the Shed. The Shed and the adjoining wharf played an important part in bringing the materials to build the magazine.</i> <i>When Workman Brothers were informed by the War Office that they could resume occupation of the grain shed in early 1917, they were prevented from doing so by the</i></p>	
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	<p><i>presence of the railway line at the rear blocking access for their lorries. The track had already been severed in the vicinity and Dock Company engineering staff removed further length of rails and sleepers at the end of July. The Shed was never used to store munitions</i></p> <p>P33 Cypress House - I thought it was built in Tudor times not 1806. I believe the deeds may well be in our archives so I will see what I can find.</p> <p>P44 Would you mind putting giving the history society its full name please? - Slimbridge Local History Society</p>	
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Appendix 4 Slimbridge Village Design Statement Consultation Drop in Event comments

Comments from visitors to the consultation drop in event 20th September 2016	
1	The Post Office is useless, there is another shop at the Legion
2	This bus shelter at Cambridge is neither use nor ornament, try using it when you wish to hail a bus – requires psychic powers or Olympic standard sprinting ability
3	I would like to see a footpath that leads to the River Severn
4	Wildfowl and Wetlands trust / Gloucester and Sharpness canal – do they provide considerable income? They provide considerable disruption.
5	Speed camera facing north on A38 – people still speed southbound!
6	Kingston Road is Dangerous – No footpath, No cycle path, Sustrans Cycle route goes down it.
7	More emphasis on job creation within the parish
8	WWT should be made aware of their impact on traffic issues. They do not care about the village
9	Is our only concern about infrastructure and employment an obsession about drainage?
10	More emphasis on employers i.e. Wisloe road industrial estate etc
11	Kingston Road has neither footpath or cycle path
12	Slimbridge Village Hall needs internet and modern audio visual equipment
13	Need more parking at the Patch
14	Village Hall car park should have better light
15	Transport for the elderly is a problem for non-drivers
16	Parish needs more bungalows for downsizing and release family homes
17	Try to prevent SDC forcing houses to be elevated because of the non-existent 'flood risk' e.g. house at Tudor caravan Park, rebuild of arson affected home in Patch