

This matter is being dealt with by:
Policy & Community Team
localplan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

11th January 2017

Dear Consultee

Exmoor National Park Local Plan – Consultation on Main Modifications and Consultation on Proposed Changes to Section 6 of the Local Plan

You were previously notified about the submission of the Exmoor National Park Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Mr Roger Clews BA MSc DipEd DipTP MRTPI was appointed as the Planning Inspector to undertake the Examination and public hearings were held at Exmoor House between 12th and 15th July 2016.

Through the Examination, several policies and supporting text in the Local Plan have been identified where a Main Modification is required to address concerns identified by the Inspector or other representations to the Plan, or to reflect changes to national planning policy.

As a result of new evidence relating to projected housing need, further changes to Section 6 of the Local Plan “Achieving a Thriving Community” are also proposed. As these particular changes to the Plan, have not been the subject of previous consultation or discussion at the hearing sessions held in July, a separate consultation is required.

You are being notified that a Schedule of Main Modifications to the Local Plan and a Schedule of Proposed Changes to Section 6 of the Local Plan, together with Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment, will be published for public consultation between **Friday 13th January and 4pm on Friday 24th February 2017**. At this stage of the Examination process comments can only be made on the Main Modifications and this is not an opportunity to make or re-state previous comments on other aspects or contents of the Plan.

In addition the Authority has prepared a Schedule of Additional Modifications to deal with more minor matters which do not materially affect policies set out in the Plan, many of which are to improve the clarity of the document or update factual information. These will be made available for information, but do not form part of the consultation.

Representations should ONLY refer to Main Modifications or Proposed Changes to Section 6 of the Local Plan.

Representation Forms are available to provide further details on the consultation and how you can view and respond to the documents.

Whilst representations about the proposed main modifications and proposed changes to Section 6 of the Local Plan should be sent to the Authority, copies of all these will be forwarded to the Programme Officer. The Inspector will then consider all of the representations and determine whether any further steps are required before concluding his report. As is normal practice, the Inspector expects that all issues arising from the consultation on the Main Modifications should be capable of being considered through the written representations procedure. However, as the Proposed Changes to Section 6 of the Local Plan have not previously been subject to consultation or scrutiny at the hearing sessions, the Inspector may decide that it is necessary to hold a further hearing session to clarify and resolve any issues relating to these proposed changes.

The examination webpages will be updated on the Exmoor National Park Authority website as appropriate and all those making representations will be informed of the next steps by the Programme Officer in due course.

Responses must be returned by the date and time referred to above.

If you no longer wish to be informed of progress of the Local Plan or other related documents please confirm this by emailing localplan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or phoning 01398 323665.

Yours faithfully

Ruth McArthur Jo Symons

Ruth McArthur & Jo Symons

Policy & Community Managers

