

Subject: Consultation Response - Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

*I write to OBJECT to the proposed Statement of Community Involvement.*

*The proposed "Statement of Community Involvement" offers less community involvement or ability to comment on planning matters than the previous local SCI did for Chiltern & South Bucks which itself was only agreed in April 2019.*

*What is the justification for such undemocratic changes and to reduce community notification?*

*In particular the lack of commitment to publish a consultation draft Local Plan is unfair on individuals and community groups who will then have just 6 weeks to comment on it and the very technical supporting evidence.*

*The reduced publicity (compared to the previous SCI) being offered about planning issues places unfair reliance upon individuals and voluntary groups to monitor the internet for news of the Local Plan or local Planning Applications. This is discriminatory upon those without internet or without computers or those with IT difficulty normally the elderly, or those living in deprived circumstance and possibly those with disabilities. As such the SCI appears to offend the principles of equality.*

*It is also unfair; developers who are actively engaged in the planning process may have many months or years of prior knowledge of schemes or Plans or other discussion with the Council, but individuals or community groups will now get just weeks to comment, should they be fortunate hear about it at all.*

*Why is the SCI only suggesting that it "may" do things that hitherto the Council had done such as advertise, display site notices, deposit in local libraries & town halls and most importantly publish consultations on the draft Local Plan and supporting documents?*

*Why does the new SCI also use vague terms like it may "reach out" to community groups and is not even committing to offer the ability for such community groups or individuals to register interest with the Council to be kept informed.*

*I am a supporter of Brown Not Green and I am shocked that BNG were not notified of this consultation and they only found out about it three days before the original deadline. BNG is a sizeable local group that has been engaged in local planning matters for years and if they are not being kept informed what hope is there for others locally?*

*I urge the Council to withdraw this SCI as drafted and at least to retain the former SCI policy for Chiltern & South Bucks merely being changed to reflect recent Local Govt reorganisation.*

*Yours faithfully,*