Minerals & Waste Newsletter No.2
June 2005

This second newsletter updates you on:

- the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), including feedback from the SCI Public Forum, and
- progress being made on our future work programme, known as the Minerals & Waste Development Scheme (M&WDS).

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The SCI sets out how we will involve the community in preparing the new planning documents.

It is being prepared in partnership with the community and has already been subject to public consultation and participation.

An SCI ‘Issues & Options’ Paper (pictured below, left) was prepared for public consultation during January and March, and a Public Forum event was held on 31st January 2005 at the Gloucester City Council Chamber.

Minerals & Waste Planning Policy Team
Environment Directorate
Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall
Gloucester
GL1 2TH
Email: m&wplans@gloucestershire.gov.uk
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
(01452) 505345

Minerals & Waste Development Scheme
The M&WDS sets out the structure, content and timetable for producing M&WDF documents.

Statement of Community Involvement
The SCI sets out how the community will be involved in preparing DPDs and in determining planning applications.

Waste Minimisation SPD
The WMSPD will cover the issue of minimising waste that arises from all types of developments. It will act as a material consideration in determining planning applications at County and District levels.

The MCS and WMCS will set out the strategic planning framework for minerals and waste development in Gloucestershire over the next 10 years. They will not however contain site specific policies or allocations.

Development Control Policies DPD
The DC DPD will include detailed policies against which future minerals and waste planning applications will be determined.

The minerals and waste sites allocations DPDs will focus upon preferred areas / areas of search for future mineral extraction or waste management facilities required within the County. These will link to the content of the two Core Strategies.

Minerals Core Strategy
Waste Mgmt Core Strategy

Minerals & Waste Development Framework

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A variety of useful and interesting comments were made during the SCI consultation / forum event. Some of the key issues have been summarised below:

- people should be given longer to respond during consultation periods;
- not everyone has access, or is able to use, e-mail communication;
- consideration of additional methods for advertising events, consultation periods, and feeding back results;
- the need to engage with hard to reach groups, particularly young people;
- provide documentation free of charge;
- encourage those submitting planning applications to undertake semi-formal pre-application consultation.

We have revised the SCI to incorporate many of your ideas and suggestions.

For a more detailed list of consultation responses, and our consideration of them, please see our website, or call in to your District Council Offices.

How have we addressed the key issues?

We will use letters to alert people to each consultation stage. Information will also be provided on our website.

We will improve publicity and levels of public awareness through partnership and collaboration with other County Council strategies and campaigns, such as the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

We will make smarter use of resources and information technology to maximise public access & awareness. This will be achieved through:

- developing a good working relationship with Library Services to ensure documents are made available to view at all libraries throughout the County;
- ensuring access to hard copies of documents at District and County Council Offices;
- producing documents in such a way to make photocopying and/or downloading easier;
- providing links on our website to Government pages to make finding key documents easier.

Produce guidance on semi formal pre-application discussion within the submission SCI document.

What next for the SCI...

We have “submitted” the SCI to the Secretary of State. At the same time a further public consultation period of six weeks is being undertaken.

Anyone who wishes to make a comment on the ‘Submission SCI’ can do so by completing the standard form available at deposit locations and on our website. An interactive form can also be found on our website. In addition a hard copy is included in the back of the SCI document.

Independent Examination of the SCI

The ‘submission’ version of the SCI is the one that will be subject to an independent examination by a planning inspector during autumn 2005 (subject to agreement to do so from the Planning Inspectorate).

Minerals & Waste Development Scheme (M&WDS)

The M&WDS sets out:

- What we are proposing to do;
- At what stage people can expect to be involved; and
- The issues each document will cover.

Over the last six months we have been in discussion with the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) about what planning documents should make up the M&WDF. Changes have now been made to the draft M&WDS that was first outlined in our newsletter back in October 2004.

The final M&WDS, which includes a timetable for the next 3 years, was approved by GOSW in May 2005. It is now available to view on our website. Hard copies can also be viewed at District / County Council Offices and all local libraries in the county.

For a brief summary of the documents that will make up the M&WDF, please see the summary table on the back page of this newsletter.

You may be interested to know that we are due to begin preparation of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies and the Waste Minimisation Supplementary Planning Document this summer.

We hope to set up stakeholder events to discuss these issues later in the year.