



Dartmoor National Park Authority

Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9JQ

Tel: (01626) 832093

Fax: (01626) 834684

E-mail: hq@dartmoor.gov.uk

Web site: www.dartmoor.gov.uk



To All Parish & Town Council Clerks
Within Dartmoor National Park

Your ref:

Please quote: SBe/AH

Direct line: 01626 831017

9 July 2014

Dear Clerk

News from Dartmoor National Park Planning Service

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a short update from the Planning service.

2013/14 Planning customer satisfaction survey - Attached to this letter you will find a report of the latest Planning Customer Satisfaction User Survey, presented to the May meeting of the Authority's Audit and Governance Committee. The results of the survey show that 89% of customers were very, or fairly satisfied with the Planning service we provide. There were some useful comments on how we might improve further and we will consider those and try and incorporate further changes where possible. The overall message however, continues to be a positive one. To go with this I have prepared an A4 sheet of planning statistics. It would be really appreciated if you could put a reference to the customer survey and/or the planning stats sheet in your parish newsletter, or on your notice board.

New members of staff and name changes - We are delighted to welcome Planning Officer, Jim Blackwell, who joins us from Worcester City Council, and brings with him a wealth of experience in planning and design. You may also have noticed that Louise Smith (Planning Officer) has recently married and is now called Louise Barattini.

Sadly for us, and after many years of service with the Authority, David Lillington (in the Policy Team) has formally retired and has been replaced by Chloe Nielsen. Chloe joins us from the Exeter branch of the Environment Agency and will be working with Dan Janota, who now takes the lead on forward planning and policy matters in his new role as Senior Forward Planner.

Please find attached a copy of the revised staff contact sheet and again, if you can find space on your notice board, or want to pass this on to interested parishioners, that would be appreciated.

Enforcement review and new Local Enforcement Plan - The Enforcement Team has prepared a new Local Enforcement Plan, which I recommend you have a look at on our website, via the hyperlink (below). The document sets out how we deal with enforcement matters, the way we prioritise our work and how we will keep you, and those who make complaints, informed. We feel there are very good links between our enforcement team and the Parish Councils, however, if you have any queries on enforcement matters please feel free to call one of the enforcement staff, and they will be more than pleased to assist you.

http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/planning/pl-devcontrol/pl-enforcement_of_planning_control

I have also attached a flow diagram showing a typical enforcement case and how it is dealt with.

2014 Housing and employment land call for sites – The SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment), is currently underway. It is a technical exercise to help identify possible land that could have *potential* for housing, employment and traveller uses in the future. It enables the Authority to ensure there is enough land for new homes to meet the needs of communities. It is a technical process only and therefore, there will be no public consultation on the sites submitted. The decisions regarding how many new homes are built, and where, will be taken in the [Local Plan](#) and there would be opportunities for community involvement in the consideration of sites as part of that process, and any subsequent planning applications. The SHLAA Report will be published by the end of 2014. Again, I have provided a link to our web site which has a useful FAQ sheet for those who want to know more.

http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/planning/pl-forwardplanning/pl-localdevframework/forward_planning_ldf_evidence/shlaa

Parish Council workshop – I have not yet set a date for a workshop this year. However, I would like an idea from your councils regarding their appetites for a future planning workshop and what sort of issues they would like covered. I would be grateful if you would come back to me on this and, if there is enough interest, I will look into organising one in the future.

Clarification on planning process or applications – I am keen to avoid any misunderstandings your council may have in how we carry out our work, and how planning applications and enforcement matters are considered. To that end, if you have any queries regarding process matters, please contact Mrs Tabitha Johnson. If your query is regarding planning applications or enforcement issues, then please contact the individual case officer. We are here to help.

Finally, please remember, if you, or your council members, have any concerns regarding the planning service or comments on how we can improve further, I would be more than happy to talk to you personally.

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I would be grateful if you could ensure that all members of the parish council have the opportunity to read this letter and the enclosures. Again, if you can help us to publicise the survey results, planning statistics and staff contact details with your parishioners that would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Belli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Stephen Belli
Director of Planning
Email: sbelli@dartmoor.gov.uk

Encs