

October 2014

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. This short Public Participation Statement sets out how Torbay Council has engaged and consulted with stakeholders during the preparation of the Collaton St. Mary Masterplan Consultation Draft in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Statement of Community Involvement 2014<sup>1</sup>. It should be read in conjunction with the main Consultation Draft versions of the SPD, as further detail is provided in these documents regarding consultation and engagement.

1.2. The scope of this statement covers the early, informal consultation and engagement activity which has taken place up until October 2014 (before formal public consultation under Regulations 12b and 13<sup>2</sup>). A further Regulation 12 Public Participation Statement will be produced to summarise the consultation and engagement, including representations, which took place during the formal consultation stage (during October and November 2014) and how this process has influenced the final, forthcoming, version of the masterplan.

## 2. Purpose of the Masterplan SPD

2.1. The purpose of the SPD is to provide detailed advice on the design principles and assist the delivery of key elements of the existing Adopted Torbay Local Plan and the new emerging Torbay Local Plan.

## 3. Early stage informal consultation

3.1. There has been a heavy emphasis on 'bottom-up' masterplan development which has acted as a guiding theme throughout the production of the document. Many of the ideas and principles that feature have been generated specifically through community participation. The consultation process has included numerous public exhibitions and workshops, an online questionnaire and many individual meetings with various organisations and representatives. Full detail is available on request – here is a brief summary:

- Drop in Day – Collaton Parish Rooms 23 April
- Stakeholder Session – Paignton Club 24 April

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<sup>1</sup> Torbay Council's Statement of Community Involvement 2014 sets out the key stages of development plan preparation and the opportunities for consultation and engagement by individuals, communities and other stakeholders - <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/sci>

<sup>2</sup> Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

- Feedback Session – Paignton Club 24 April
- On-Line Survey – 29 April – 5 June 2014
- Stakeholder Engagement – June – August 2014

3.2. The Drop in Day and on-line survey were advertised with a Flyer, delivered to around 600 residential properties and businesses in and around Collaton St Mary. The consultation was also advertised in the local press, the Blatchcombe Newsletter, via email to local community and business organisations and on the Torbay Council website. A paper copy of the survey was distributed by a local volunteer and the results analysed and considered as part of the consultation programme. A presentation was also made to the Torbay Regeneration Network during a Breakfast Seminar in June.

3.3. The consultation was carried out in distinct phases and this staggered approach allowed feedback from participants to inform the development of the masterplan over the past 5 months.

3.4. In addition to community consultation, the Council held a Technical Workshop at the outset of the process in February 2014 to scope the constraints, technical considerations and issues which required specific attention as part of the masterplan. Various Council officers were invited including a selection of partner organisations.

#### **4. Issues raised through public participation and the influence on the production of the Masterplan**

4.1. The consultation work has been instrumental in terms of defining the key areas and content of the masterplan. This is summarised within the Consultation section of the main Collaton St. Mary Masterplan Consultation Draft. In particular, there is detail on how the findings, aspirations and objectives have been influenced through the engagement process.

4.2. Specifically, some of the key ways in which the Collaton St. Mary Masterplan has developed to accommodate the views. Ideas and responses from local residents are as follows:

- Location of a possible new local centre to the rear of the BMW garage site. The proposed location was the most popular, as it was felt there could be a natural connection with the existing local centre in a relatively central location to the existing and extended village.
- New Local Centre to provide opportunities for a range of uses, to complement the Parish Rooms, including disabled accessible community space, local retail and public open space.
- The impact on key views and rural setting of the village minimised by keeping proposed development on the south side of the village and on the lower slopes of the hills to the north and south.
- Introduction of a link road between Blagdon Lane and Totnes Road, with access to a new school car park and drop off point.
- Introduction of new accessible wildlife habitats and green corridors.
- Expansion of accessible public open space in the village, at the new local centre, adjacent to the school (sports field), on the southern slopes of the car boot field (orchard and community garden) and green linear park area through proposed new housing development on the south side of the Totnes Road. Space to accommodate children's play areas, multi use games area and new outdoor sports pitches.

- Network of pedestrian and cycle routes connecting the new village centre with other parts of the village.
- Enhanced pedestrian and cycle connections with Paignton Town Centre.
- Dark corridor introduced through the village, hedges and tree lines retained and enhanced throughout the masterplan area to accommodate the movement and foraging of Greater Horseshoe Bats. External lighting levels to be restricted throughout this zone and connecting planting and landscaping to facilitate the movement of bats across breaks created by existing and new roads.