



## **Newark & Sherwood District Council Statement of Community Involvement – Temporary changes to publicising and consulting on planning policy documents due to the Covid-19 pandemic**

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, we will be unable to carry out community consultation on planning policy documents in exactly the way set out in the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Temporary changes, set out below, have been made to protect the health of our communities and ensure that Newark & Sherwood District Council follows national advice and guidelines. This is a changing situation and we will carry out risk assessments and adapt the approach taken as the circumstances and public health advice require.

### **Engaging with the Community**

Owing to the current restrictions on the use of libraries and District Council offices, it might not be possible to publicise consultations in these locations, and paper copies of documents might not be held on deposit. Paper copies of documents can be made available on request.

Consultations will continue to be published on our website, promoted on the Council's social media accounts, and we will continue to notify interested parties by email and letter and receive comments through the online consultation response system.

It might not be possible to hold face to face public consultation events on planning documents in the usual way during this time. Some District residents and other interested parties will not be able to access online consultations, however, so we will seek to ensure that face to face consultation takes place in some form following risk assessment and in line with current health advice. Details of this will be set out in any consultation plan.

### **Responding to Consultations**

The District Council encourages people to respond to consultations online, either by using our consultation response system or electronic forms, or by emailing the relevant team. Paper response forms might not be available in libraries and District Council offices but can be made available on request. We are currently operating a reduced postal service and paper correspondence might not be received or acknowledged in the ways that they normally would be.

**To contact Planning Policy** please email [planningpolicy@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk), call 01636 650000, or write to Planning Policy, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Notts NG24 1BY.