

Case Study Template

Topic
Experience of developing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
Name of Initiative
Developing an SPG for our Landscape and Bio-diversity Strategy
Name of Local Authority/Organisation
Mid Sussex DC
Related Topics/Issues
Biodiversity strategy

Aims & Objectives
To give 'teeth' to the landscape and Biodiversity strategy by making it a material condition of the planning process that developers should give full regard to landscape and biodiversity in all development proposals.
Outcomes & Impacts
<p>A statutory planning document that has been used by planning officers and developers alike in helping to protect our valuable natural assets. It has been used to inform development briefs for strategic housing sites as well as providing guidance for small scale development proposals. It has ensured that good quality development occurs in Mid Sussex that enhances landscape and biodiversity and that the statutory and planning policy requirements relating to these issues are being fulfilled.</p> <p>Widespread consultation was carried out on the document which received very favourable comments from the public and stakeholders alike. The Government Office for the South East and the Environment Agency promoted it as a forward thinking and informative document with clear and easily understood checklists.</p>
Process
The Landscape and Bio-diversity Strategy was used as the basis and structure for the document and a steering group consisting of key partners was established to oversee the preparation of the document. Widespread consultation was carried out on the draft document with parish councils, environmental organisations and developers. Their responses were incorporated in to the final document which was formally adopted by the Council in November 2003. A training day for all planning officers and key staff from other departments was undertaken so the document became fully understood and 'accepted'.
Resources/Funding
Existing revenue funding
Timescales
Undertaken in 2002/03 and document published in Nov 2003
Evaluation
A successful piece of work
Prospects & Opportunities
The document has been used to inform other areas of work and planning documents. The setting up of the steering group for this SPG and the related training event led to the development of the Revision of the Ancient Woodland Survey for Mid Sussex 2007. The Landscape and Biodiversity SPG has also been used as a background document for the Mid

Sussex Landscape Character Assessment 2005 and the Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document 2006. The document continues to be used by planning officers and developers when considering development proposals that may impact on landscape and biodiversity.

Key Learning/Advice for Others

Close collaboration between the planning team, landscapes team and steering group was vital in getting a successful outcome. The document needed to be simple and easily understood as the subject matter included some complex issues such as what surveys are required for different landscape or ecological features. And statutory legislation and international obligations that are required. The document contained easy to use checklists.

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Contact agrees that GreenSpace can publish this case study in either printed or digital media

Y Yes

No

Contact is happy for their contact details to be published with the case study

Y Yes

No

Other Information Sources