

**HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT
(Report by Planning Policy Manager)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to acknowledge the work that has been carried out by residents of Holywell and Needingworth over a period of three years in producing this draft document. Members are asked to consider its contents and approve it as supplementary planning guidance.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The concept of Village Design Statements (VDS) was established in 1993 as a means of involving local people in the future development and evolution of their communities. It seeks to describe those qualities of the village valued by local people and aims to identify the landscape setting, the shape of the settlement and the nature of the buildings themselves.
- 2.2 Hilton is the only other village in Huntingdonshire to have produced a VDS.
- 2.3 In producing this document, Holywell cum Needingworth has consulted a wide range of residents, the District and County Councils and the Environment Agency.
- 2.4 The District Council's role in the production has been to offer advice at various stages of the process and to ensure that there is nothing contained within the document that conflicts with our policies and practices.
- 2.5 This document has been forwarded in draft to the District Council with a request to have it adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). This is the recommended procedure for Village design statements as set out in guidance produced by the Countryside Agency.

3. THE VALUE OF THE DESIGN STATEMENT AS SPG

- 3.1 The Village design statement will be of interest and use to a wide variety of people interested in development activities in the village.
- 3.2 By obtaining supplementary planning guidance status the design statement will carry more weight and hence be more useful when used in conjunction with the determination of planning proposals by the Local Planning authority.

- 3.3 There are a small number of alterations that will be necessary to make to the document in order for it to be acceptable for adoption as SPG. These are set out in the attached annex and have been agreed by the Authors.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Holywell cum Needingworth are to be congratulated on producing a useful and attractive document. It provides an additional tool in considering applications particularly in Needingworth where there is no conservation area or character statement. This document together with the new Design Guide due for publication in the Autumn will ensure a better quality of new development having taken into account those qualities expressed by local people.

5. RECOMMENDATION (S)

- 5.1 That the cabinet adopt the Village Design Statement for Holywell cum Needingworth subject to the alterations set out in the annex.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Guidance on Village Design Statements: Countryside Agency publication

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