

LYDNEY

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2

Consultation Statement

Submission Version – January 2026

1 Introduction

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan.

1.2 Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations requires that a Consultation Statement should:

- contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- explain how they were consulted;
- summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

Part A Gives an overview of the consultation events and activities that have led to the production of the Draft Lydney NDP and ultimately the planning policies contained within it that aim to control and promote sustainable development in Lydney.

Part B Gives an overview and description of the pre-submission consultation, known as Regulation 14, that will be undertaken on the Draft Lydney NDP. The Regulation 14 Consultation covered more than the statutory minimum six-week period beginning 14th May 2025 and ending on the 22nd July 2025. The consultation period was extended (to cover 9 weeks and 6 days) to take account of a delay in uploading all the evidence base onto the Consultation Website¹.

The purpose of Regulation 14 consultation is to ensure Parish residents, stakeholders and other interested parties had an opportunity to comment on a pre-submission draft of the NDP. Those comments and issues raised will be included in this report, together with the Steering Group's responses to those comments. Changes made to the plan following consideration of consultation responses are outlined

¹ <https://lydneyndp2.com/>

PART A

2. Our Approach to Consultation

- 2.1 Throughout the preparation stages of the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan, Lydney Town Council and the NDP Steering Group have worked hard to engage local people on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, and also to seek their views on key topics.
- 2.2 To oversee the process, a NDP Steering Group, made up of parish councillors, residents and representatives of the business community was formed. Terms of Reference were agreed and regularly reviewed by the Town Council². More information is set out in the next section on the membership and role of this group.
- 2.4 The team from Neighbourhood Planning Consultancy Place Studio, supported the Steering Group throughout the Plan preparation process. They supported the Steering Group to prepare a Consultation Strategy. See appendix 1.
- 2.5 The following section sets out the consultation methods that have been employed (pre-Regulation 14) in the preparation of the NDP.

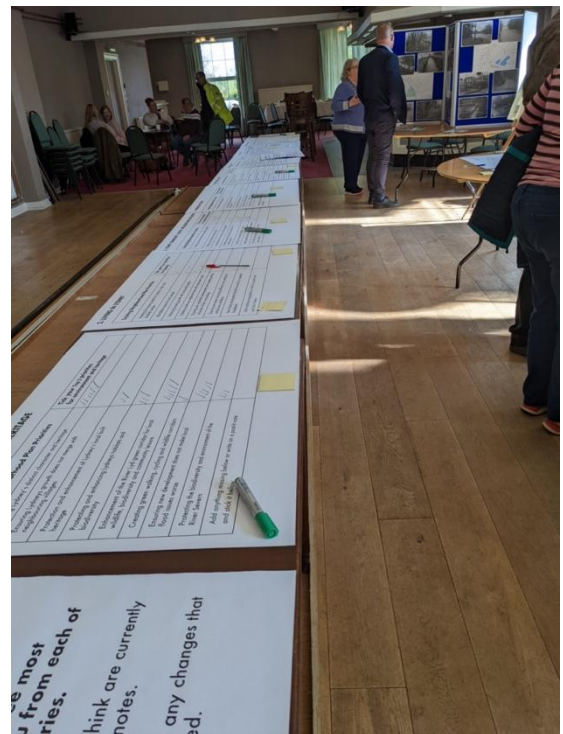
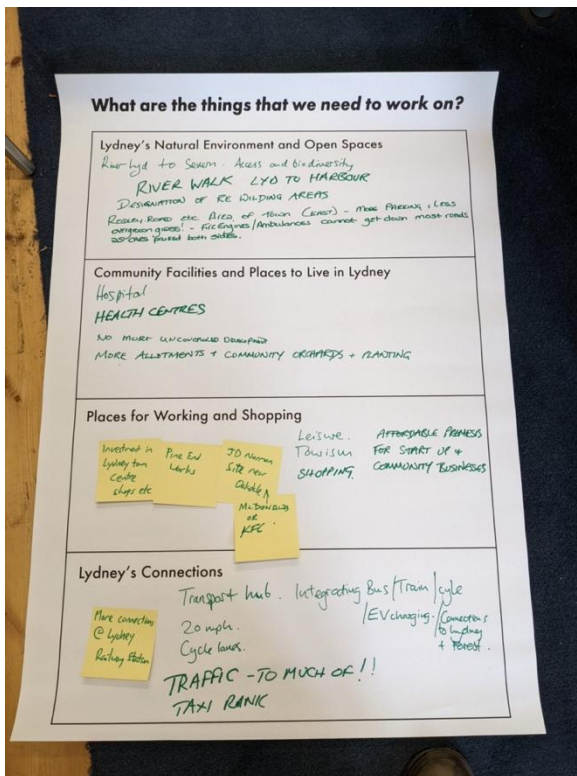
² [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NDP-Steering-Group-TORs-v3-12.02.24.pdf](https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NDP-Steering-Group-TORs-v3-12.02.24.pdf)

3 Plan Preparation and Informal Consultation

Summary of Events and Activities

- 3.1. In January 2020, Lydney Town Council held an informal strategy meeting to explore how the council could influence the development of Lydney during the next 15 - 20 years. Ideas were put forward as to how a regeneration project could be started, and it was noted that the existing Neighbourhood Development Plan was due for revision in 2024. At the February 2020 full council meeting, it was decided to proceed with the regeneration project and to review and revise the NDP. Tenders were invited from a number of consultants, and Place studio was contracted to assist in the process.
- 3.2. Lydney Town Council had undertaken a consultation exercise during 2020/21, which became known as the Lydney Forward consultation. This aimed to identify the needs and aspirations of the community that would shape the development of Lydney during the next 10 - 15 years. This informed the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, and early consultations. See appendix 2.
- 3.3. A detailed report of the procedures undertaken during the development of the Lydney Forward project are in appendix 2, but in summary this included:
 - A pilot walking workshop
 - Stakeholder workshops
 - Business outreach interviews
 - A community engagement questionnaire.
- 3.4. The Lydney Forward consultation was greatly impacted by the Covid pandemic, and the restrictions that became necessary as a result. It was therefore well into 2022 before Lydney Town Council could consider beginning the process of re-examining the plan made in 2014, and developing strategies to review and revise it.
- 3.5. The NDP review was begun at a launch event held in early April 2022 at 3 Hill St, the former British Legion headquarters which retains a community space upstairs. Personal invitations were sent to interested parties in the town, including representatives of the business community, local councillors and representatives of various community organisations. All participants in the Lydney Forward consultation exercise were also invited and the event was advertised publicly so as many townspeople as possible could be reached.
- 3.6. There was also an invited stakeholder drop-in event which was held at the Lydney Community Hall, on 20th April 2022 between 3-7pm. The results from this drop-in show a range of priorities that are supported by attendees with a number of topic areas receiving

strong support. Top priorities for attendees were primarily focused around ensuring delivery of the appropriate infrastructure and employment to support the recently and soon to be delivered housing. Results also show strong support for delivering an improved town centre experience that is welcoming and accessible to all. With a clear focus on delivering reductions in car usage and improvements to Lydney's carbon footprint. Appendix 3 is a full report of that consultation. Below are a selection of photos from the event.



3.7. Participants in the launch

event were invited to an informal meeting to set up a steering group to revise the 2014 plan. Members of the steering group were:

- Anne Harley (former Mayor and Town Councillor) (Chair)
- Councillor Carol Harris (Chair of Planning)
- Councillor Richard Kemsley (Chair of Bathurst Park and Lydney Recreation Ground Trusts)
- Councillor Peter Maklin (Vice chair of Lydney Recreation Ground Trust)
- Councillor Pam Johns (Vice chair Planning)
- Rev. David (St. Mary's church)
- Simon Moore (Chartered Surveyor, member of Historical Society and St. Mary's churchwarden)
- Emma Biddle Kemsley (Business owner)
- Robin Johnson (Builder and property developer)
- Steve Stockham (Former town councillor and Traffic and transport planner)

3.8. The group met at roughly fortnightly intervals to revise the text and outline the policies that would form the revised plan, with assistance from Place Studio.

3.9. In 2023, the Steering Group worked on building the evidence base for the NDP. Progress was reported at the annual Town Meeting in May of that year. See appendix 3. The regular coffee mornings were also an opportunity to speak to people about the Plan as the review was underway.



3.10. The Spring of 2024 saw two dedicated events, one in the Community Centre and one in the town centre which sought residents' views on the emerging vision and objectives, together with the main outlines of the emerging plan. These were run by the Town Council and members of the steering group. There was also representation at a community event at Bathurst Park, which was used to publicise the plan and to distribute information about the NDP. Both events were well attended, though only 30 people responded to the survey which was made available both in hard copy and on the plan website (see below), the steering group were able to draw on the feedback from both survey and the discussions to inform the continuing development of the plan.

3.11. The feedback highlighted four areas of concern for Lydney:

- Town Centre Revitalisation and Traffic: Many people highlighted a desire for the Town Centre to become a better social and economic focal point (some talked about a potential "town square"). A number of people talked about creating a car-free area around Newerne Street to reduce fumes and encourage a "cafe culture" for tourists and residents.
- Housing and Affordability: The need for high-quality, affordable, and accessible housing to meet the needs of all ages and backgrounds was a common theme people brought up.
- Essential Community Facilities: Beyond housing, there is a clear demand for better local amenities. Specific requests include more schools, doctors, and dentist surgeries, alongside a push for more independent shops.
- Local Economy and Tourism: A number of people stressed the need to protect existing local employment while actively promoting new investment. There's also a desire to support Lydney's role as a tourist and visitor destination (the "gateway to the forest").

3.12. A copy of the survey questions is in Appendix 4.

Online

3.13. A website was created by Participatr (see: <https://lydneyndp2.com/>) to share information and collect views on the plan.

3.14. The Town Council also linked to the Neighbourhood Plan from their own website (https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/?page_id=269)

3.15. The Town Council also kept residents up-to-date on progress via social media (Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/people/Lydney-Town-Council/100083023494531/>).

We are updating the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan

The Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan has now entered the Regulation 14 Consultation stage. We are pleased to receive your comments on the revised plan. The consultation period runs from 14th May until 22nd July.

Have your say

Local News

- 3.15 Information on consultation events, as well as various articles on the Neighbourhood Plan were also published in the Town Newsletter
https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/?page_id=254

PART B Regulation 14 Pre-submission Publicity and Consultation

- 4.1. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 states that before submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority, a qualifying body (Lydney Town Council) must:
- publicise in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area
 - details of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan
 - details of where and when the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan may be inspected
 - details of how to make representations
 - the date by which those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date on which the draft proposal is first publicised
 - consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood plan and
 - send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority
- 4.2. This section of the Consultation Statement therefore outlines the approach taken by the Planning Group to consult on the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan at the Regulation 14 stage of the process. The Regulation 14 consultation ran from 14th May 2025 and ending on the 22nd July 2025.
- 4.3. Consultation originally ran from Wednesday 14th May to Friday 27th June but was extended to Tuesday 22nd July. The extended timeframe was to ensure that all relevant material was available for the statutory minimum time of 6 weeks to take account of a delay in uploading all the evidence base onto the Consultation Website³.
- 4.4. The draft Neighbourhood Plan and associated draft evidence base documents and feedback forms were available to view and download on the Lydney Neighbourhood Plan website <https://lydneyndp2.com/> during the Regulation 14 consultation. Screenshots from the website below.

³ <https://lydneyndp2.com/>

Help us shape the future conservation and development of Lydney.

Have your say on the draft plan

Neighbourhood Plan

Click the image below to read the Neighbourhood Plan in your web browser, or [click here](#) to download the document as a PDF.



Design Codes and Guidance

Click the image below to read the Design Codes and Guidance in your web browser, or [click here](#) to download the document as a PDF.



Masterplan Framework

Click the image below to read the Masterplan Framework in your web browser, or [click here](#) to download the document as a PDF.



Additional materials

[Lydney Neighbourhood Plan Review - Stage One Report, May 2022](#)

[Lydney Forward - Consultation Feedback Report, 2021](#)

[Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan 2 - Modification Proposal Statement](#)

Once you've read the draft plan and supporting documents, please complete the comment form below to have your say.

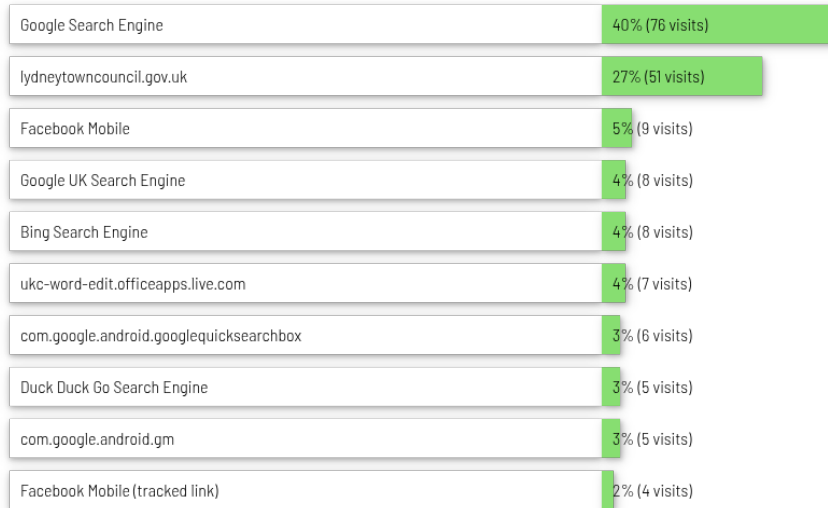
Comment on the draft plan

Do you have any comments on the revised plan?

4.5. Members of the community were also directed to the Neighbourhood Plan website via the Town Council website: <https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/>

4.6. There were over 371 unique visits to the Neighbourhood Plan website and 1065 page visits in total during the Regulation 14 consultation period. The top referral websites (where visitor clicked a link elsewhere on the web) are as follows:

Top referral web pages



4.7. Consultation information, the Neighbourhood Plan and the questionnaire were available and could be completed online either on the Lydney Town Council website, at all events, on paper or by scanning a QR code that was available on all printed matter.

4.8. The draft Plan and associated documents were shared with a list of statutory consultees including Forest of Dean District Council, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended. A copy of the notification sent to statutory consultees on 8th May 2025 is in Appendix 5: Consultee letter example, along with the list of contacts to which it was sent in Appendix 6: List of Consultees contacted.

4.9. As well as contacting statutory bodies, stakeholders such as local businesses, community groups and organisations were also contacted along with those who had expressed an interest in being kept informed on progress of the plan.

4.10. The Regulation 14 consultation was publicised through a range of methods, as detailed

below:

4.11. A display outlining key points of the Neighbourhood Plan was produced to be displayed at all public events along with posters and leaflets that were distributed and displayed in local businesses, pubs, restaurants and the Health Centre plus public notice boards in readiness for Consultation and during it.

4.12. Events to promote the consultation and answer any questions were held in various locations:

- Wednesday 28th May - Community Centre Naas Lane 3 - 7pm
- Monday 2nd June - Council coffee morning and surgery at the Town Hall 10 - 11.30am
- Saturday 7th June - outside Lidl's entrance 10 - 2pm
- Monday 7th July - Council coffee morning and surgery at the Town Hall 10 - 11.30am
- Saturday 20th July - at Bathurst Park Summer Extravaganza

4.13. Councillors were in regular attendance to answer queries and give advice. In addition, we were visited by Gloucestershire County Council Planning Officer at our coffee morning on 7th July and had an opportunity for an in-depth discussion about our Neighbourhood Plan and the way forward.

4.14. Articles about the consultation were also included in the Town Council newsletter.

4.15. There were in excess of 200 visitors to all our stands. Comments from the community were primarily about the excessive planned housing demands for Lydney and the lack of infrastructure to support it - especially road congestion at the Chepstow and Gloucester ends of the A48 and the lack of linked public transport and schools facilities.

**HELP SHAPE
LYDNEY'S
FUTURE**

A Steering Group of local people and Town Council has refreshed our current Neighbourhood Plan to increase its strength and life until 2041.

We are now undertaking statutory consultation (Regulation 14) and are seeking your views on the proposed plan.

How to have your say:
The neighbourhood plan is available and consultation runs from Wednesday 14th May - Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Event Dates: Lydney Town Hall Coffee Morning
Monday 7th July 2025 10am-11:30am

Lydney Community Event Bathurst Park
Saturday 19th July 2025 - 2pm-8pm

How to Have Your Say:
Do it online: Scan the QR Code or search www.lydneyndp2.com
or
Fill out a paper questionnaire:
Ask a team member for a copy.

www.lydneyndp2.com



Making Amendments

- 4.16. Appendix 7 is a spreadsheet in which all representations received to the Regulation 14 via the online survey have been reviewed. The comments were carefully considered and responded to by the Steering Group. Appendix 8 is a collection of responses received via email. A summary of the substantive comments as related to policy is set out in

appendix 9.

- 4.17. Where appropriate, amendments were made to the draft Plan and evidence base for Regulation 15 submission to Forest of Dean District Council for subsequent stages of the Neighbourhood Plan making processes.
- 4.18. A brief summary of changes made to the policies, in response to the consultation feedback is set out below. Appendix 9 provides a narrative summary of key matters raised and how the submission plan responds.
- 4.19. A summary of the main changes to the policies (and one objective) of the Neighbourhood Plan as a result of all the Regulation 14 Consultation comments received is provided in the table below.

| Summary of Issue raised / Comments at Regulation 14 Consultation | Summary of Proposed Change |
|---|---|
| General | |
| <p>Praise for the plan's overall vision, community engagement, and particular focus on local heritage and design.</p> <p>Informal pre-Reg 14 and formal Reg 14 responses from FoDDC informed the Reg 14 draft and submission plan. As a result amendments have been responsive to Reg 14 feedback but are relatively minor.</p> <p>Comments and suggestions from Gloucestershire County Council have helped to increase the plan's responsiveness to community education and training, employment and transportation and social isolation.</p> <p>Supportive comments were received from Historic England and local affordable housing providers.</p> | <p>The Plan period is extended to 2043 in response to align the plan period with the amended FoDDC Local Plan Draft.</p> <p>General corrections to text to address grammatical and spelling errors. Alteration to correct document references, place names, date updates and references to evidence.</p> <p>Minor amendments to policy and supporting texts to address responses and increase conformity with and coordinated delivery of FoDDC plan and GCC transportation and economic strategy.</p> <p>Increased community projects to reinforce community and employment training commitments</p> |

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| Community feedback reinforced local opinions and priorities largely voiced during earlier engagements and are considered to be addressed in policies. Points of accuracy have informed numerous minor amendments to background text. | |
| Vision and Objectives | |
| GCC provided helpful observations relating to the emphasis given to education and training, health and transport inequalities and Lydney Station. | <p>The vision statement has been refined to prioritise local access to rewarding jobs, accessible health, education and community facilities.</p> <p>Objective 4; Housing and Communities. Addition to Increase priority of education and training in response of GCC reps.</p> <p>Objective 6 is refined to emphasise equality of access to transport to tackle local transport related health inequalities.</p> |
| LYD ENV1: Location of new development (alternative) | |
| FoDDC were concerned to ensure the LNP maximised the effectiveness of policies in the context of increased strategic growth. | <p>In response to FoDDC comments and to increase alignment with and support for Lydney's strategic role and growth policy has been refined.</p> <p>Criteria 1 support amended to increase alignment with strategic and NP development plan policies.</p> <p>In response to GCC and community comments clause (b) is added to prioritise the importance of good quality of connection and provision of transport infrastructure.</p> |
| LYD ENV2: Protecting and enhancing Lydney's Natural Environment | |
| The updated policy did not produce objections requiring revision. | No amendment to policy. |

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| LYD ENV3: Protecting Lydney's Heritage | |
| This policy was strongly supported in particular by Historic England and the community. | No amendment to policy. |
| LYD ENV4: High quality design and local distinctiveness | |
| The policy (along with the Design Guide and Code) was generally supported by FoDDC and the community. | No amendment to policy. |
| LYD ENV5: Low-carbon and renewable energy generation | |
| <p>The policy was generally supported. Community feedback suggested domestic renewables should be included.</p> <p>Some skepticism over tidal power feasibility.</p> <p>SEA/HRA screening raised concern that the policy addressed Regulations.</p> | In response to SEA/HRA screening opinion and the intention to support renewable energy production only where it secures environmental protection, criteria 3 has strengthened protections to designated landscapes and adherence to Habitat Regulations procedures. |
| LYD ENV6: Flooding and water management | |
| <p>FoDDC /GCC comments relating to supporting text accuracy.</p> <p>Few community comments.</p> | No amendment to policy. |
| LYD HC1: Housing Choice for Everyone | |
| <p>FoDDC support the policy but expressed concern (that alone) it lacked focus.</p> <p>Members of the community expressed wish to stop further housing was expressed, but also the need for a good range of choice.</p> | <p>Minor amendment to policy.</p> <p>Addition of viability clause in response to FoDDC (development Management) concerns related to deliverability of identified mixes for housing and to optimise opportunity for delivery</p> |
| LYD HC2: Protecting and providing community facilities | |
| GCC emphasised issues of health inequalities and isolation. This was | No amendment to policy. |

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| <p>reinforced by Lydney Churches Together.</p> <p>The community raised issues of lack of health facilities and the likely slippage in provision of new central healthcare facility.</p> <p>References to the hospital closure.</p> | <p>However background text has been refined and community projects have been refined to increase commitments to supporting cultural activities and build community equality and cohesion.</p> |
| LYD ET1: Employment | |
| <p>General support for the policy.</p> <p>Community expressed the need for commuting to reach work and for LNP to support all existing businesses and not to be overly focused on 'High end/tech' employment.</p> | <p>No amendment to policy.</p> |
| LYD ET2: Supporting Lydney Town Centre | |
| <p>General support for policy. Some detailed concerns expressed by FoDDC (DM) relating to delivery of Town Centre Master Plan vision for former Coop site.</p> <p>Some ongoing dis-satisfaction with the quality and choice of Town Centre expressed by the community.</p> | <p>No amendment to policy.</p> <p>TCMP is a guidance document and does not form policy.</p> |
| LYD ET3: Lydney Harbour Regeneration | |
| <p>No substantive comments</p> | <p>No amendment to policy.</p> |
| LYD ET4: Promoting local tourism | |
| <p>Community comments suggested significance of neighbouring attractions</p> | <p>No amendment to policy. Background text references neighbouring 'Taurus Crafts'.</p> |
| LYD TRAN1: Sustainable and Active Travel and Improvements to transport infrastructure | |
| <p>Transport safety, inadequacy and inequality and the connectivity with the</p> | <p>No amendment to policy.</p> |

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| <p>railway station were key issues raised by consultees. GCC emphasised the significance of public transport routes, the bus and rail stations.</p> <p>Community concerns focused on increased congestion as a result of strategic growth, safety and town core HGVs as well as cycling/walking connections.</p> | <p>Refined background text.</p> |
| <p>LYD TRAN2: Public rights of way and wildlife corridors</p> | |
| <p>Support for access and biodiversity related policy.</p> | <p>No amendment to policy.</p> |

Appendices (see separate folder)

Appendix 1: Consultation Strategy

Appendix 2: Lydney Forward

Appendix 3: Launch consultation report

Appendix 4: Vision, Objectives and Scope Consultation Survey Questions

Appendix 5: Consultee letter example

Appendix 6: List of Consultees contacted

Appendix 7: Regulation 14 Online Feedback

Appendix 8: Regulation 14 Email Feedback

Appendix 9: Summary of Consultation Feedback