

[REDACTED]

From: Pam Lunn [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 September 2021 14:31
To: Planning Policy
Subject: current consultation on net zero

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Planning Department

I am writing concerning your current 'net zero' consultation, soon to be ended. I have completed and submitted my responses online, and am now writing to you with some (critical) feedback on the whole nature of the consultation.

First, about me: I have lived in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your consultation documents would not pass the scrutiny of the Plain English Campaign (<http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/>). This is absolutely *not* a user-friendly consultation, either in terms of your use of language, or in terms of the level of computer confidence and competence required.

It requires:

- a *very* high level of functional literacy
- familiarity with local-government-speak (a particular mode of mangling the English language)
- substantial prior familiarity with a number of 'green' concepts and technologies and their associated vocabularies
- a high level of computer literacy and competence
- a high level of confidence in expressing oneself in writing
- a very high level of commitment to give the necessary time and effort to the task of responding

This is *not* an example of the Council demonstrating a real commitment to involving local people in the decision-making process. It seems to me to be a 'CINO' – consultation in name only, allowing someone in the office to tick a box saying: 'we consulted' . . . but the consultation is neither wide nor significantly 'real'. The section of the population capable of responding in any meaningful way is *very* small.

Additionally, the whole process was poorly publicised. I was sent the link by a local organisation, otherwise I would not have known about it.

Clearly it is too late to amend this consultation, but I hope that these comments might be able to inform future similar exercises, so that public involvement can become less tokenistic, and more genuinely participatory.