

From: West Chiltington Parish Council
Sent: 20 June 2019 15:27
To: Barbara.Childs@horsham.gov.uk
Subject: Response Following Meeting on 13th June 2019

Dear Barbara

Firstly, West Chiltington Parish Council (WCPC) wish to thank you all for your time and for agreeing to meet with us on 13th June 2019 to discuss and review the way forward with WCPC's Neighbourhood Plan.

I thought it would be useful to provide a brief summary of the discussions and actions identified at the meeting as follows:-

Attendees:

Horsham District Council (HDC)

Barbara Childs, Catherine Howe & Norman Kwan

West Chiltington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Marshall Monks, Robert Gustar, Gwenneth Wylie & Judy Fryer

The purpose was to discuss and to review your latest thinking regarding the letter from WCPC to Horsham District Council (HDC) dated 9th May 2019, which was in response to the letter from Mr Saunders of HDC dated the 10th April 2019.

The WCPC opened the meeting by summarising the responses it had provided to the concerns raised in HDC's letter dated 10th April 2019:-

1. It is agreed that the consultation with West Sussex County Council is no longer an issue.
2. WCPC had provided evidence that a "call for sites" had been carried out.
3. The case law put forward by HDC actually supported the LPA and WCPC position instead of weakening it as indicated in HDC's letter dated 10th April 2019.
4. The site review process carried out by WCPC followed the methodology and guidelines provided by HDC.
5. WCPC provided evidence which identified a flaw in the AECOM housing number calculation in their report.

WCPC confirmed the outcome of the meeting was for an agreement to move the Plan forward to Regulation 16 and was prepared to provide a written undertaking that the Neighbourhood Plan would be reviewed within two years once the new housing figures for HDC were known.

HDC then made an offer. This offer superseded the options for a way forward as proposed by HDC in their letter dated 10th April. The offer proposed was that HDC would be willing to take the Plan forward provided that WCPC would underwrite the cost estimated to be £16,000.

It was acknowledged in HDC letter dated 10th April 2019 and further re-iterated at the meeting by HDC that in the context of the planning acts there would appear no legal basis for HDC to refuse to take forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

WCPC commented it appeared this latest offer had been made without HDC having considered the responses and evidence in the letter dated 9th May 2019 and that any such offer would need to be quantified and qualified. The discussion that followed HDC acknowledged that they had not considered the points detailed in the letter dated 9th May 2019. HDC advised that they would require some time to review the same and this could have a bearing on the latest offer made by HDC.

Discussion moved on to the site assessments made by HDC as referred to in their letter dated 10th April 2019. HDC confirmed and clarified that the site assessment comments made (by Trevor Saunders) in this letter were not the official position HDC and had been carried out independently by Trevor Saunders and without HDC being involved.

WCPC then presented and handed to HDC further evidence (attached) in support of showing the AECOM study is flawed as the numbers of dwellings used by them for the hierarchy of villages were in a number of cases less than those in the 2011 census. This resulted in AECOM providing an inflated number for the housing allocation for West Chiltington.

Actions Identified:-

- CH agreed to advise WCPC when they could expect a response.
- CH will review the letter dated the 9th May 2019, together with the AECOM breakdown provided by WCPC at the meeting and report to BC. CH as part of the review will also clearly identify areas of agreement and disagreement.
- BC then to clarify the latest offer and the associated conditions.

Regards

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