



## West Chiltington Parish Council

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Mrs B Childs  
Head of Strategic Planning  
Horsham District Council  
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Horsham  
RH12 1RL  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Mrs Childs

Thank you for your letter to WCPC dated 8th January 2018 which is only a part response to the issues WCPC identified in our letter dated 10th November 2017. To date we have still not received the reply promised from Norman Kwan, to our responses on the list of points HDC raised in the consultation period last year. The subsequent emails of the 16th and 26th January sent to you requesting further details on matters highlighted in your letter 8th January and the issue of HDC's overdue reply to our responses to about your consultation points have not been answered.

We appreciate that your resources are limited however, it is important to have this outstanding information to enable WCPC to progress to the next stage and ask that the outstanding reply is treated with urgency.

In the meantime, and where possible WCPC are trying to keep things moving towards a successful Regulation 16 and therefore felt that although we do not yet have the complete responses from you and time is passing it would be helpful to update you with our position.

WCPC Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in developing its Neighbourhood Plan, followed the practice carried out by many parish councils and assessed its housing requirements based upon the housing needs study carried out by Action in Rural Sussex.

There is no compulsory requirement to undertake an assessment in accordance with the AECOM methodology. This seems to be a requirement that has been introduced by HDC and you have made it clear HDC will not allow us to proceed without the AECOM study. WCPC have therefore contacted Locality to undertake a Housing Needs assessment in accordance with AECOM and instructed them to proceed and complete the study.

However, as HDC stated at the meeting that they are not looking for West Chiltington to provide more housing than outlined in the WC Draft Plan. The AECOM study will form part of our evidence and used to help support our reasoning in our plan and our mitigating circumstances. In addition, we also plan to undertake a supplementary local survey to update the work from our April 2014 AiRS survey.

The Regulation 14 plan has been amended as has the SEA, to take into account the comments we have received. It is not an automatic conclusion that the AECOM report will require us to update the site assessment work or the SEA as we have already objectively

evaluated all our sites using a process and set of criteria as laid out in our evidence documents.

### **REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION**

We note your comments on the Reg 14 Consultation and have now received a formal consultation response from WSCC and these along with all other comments will be used in our NP review process to amend the plan accordingly and consider this is normal practise. We believe that nothing you have highlighted in the legislation indicates that anything we have done is not correct or does not meet Basic Conditions.

All the consultees have had 6 weeks in which to respond and have not been prejudiced. Your letter goes on to state that a number of external parties have contacted HDC to express their concern at not being consulted, however you have not provided us with details of these people. It can clearly be seen from our documented evidence list of consultees that we have met the terms of Schedule 1 because we have consulted with a number of public bodies and landowners/agents as evidenced by the responses.

We can also evidence the wide-ranging efforts we went to in the Parish, including advertising the NP consultation on the PC website, posters, banners, three Parish notice boards around the village, notices in the Sussex Local which goes to every household and also in the Parish magazine and refute the allegation that our consultation was arbitrary and did not meet the Basic Conditions.

### **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

A large number of issues raised in our letter of the 10th November are still outstanding and this is stalling the completion of our Plan. It was raised at the meeting with you as well as in our consultation response letter, there are a number of inaccurate statements and conclusions by HDC that WCPC have identified and need to be justified or retracted. Mr Kwan admitted at our meeting that his comments were made without fully having read our evidence documents. This is causing issues that we cannot resolve until we have your response.

Yours sincerely



Marshall Monks  
West Chiltington Parish Council