

13 January 2015

Mr Kevin Wright
Clerk
Henfield Parish Council

Dear Mr Wright,

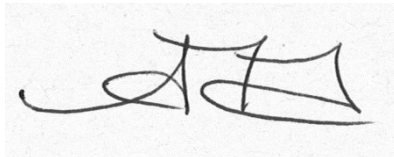
Subject: Henfield Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2035, Pre-submission Consultation

Thank you for consulting the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on the consultation draft of the Henfield Neighbourhood Plan. The National Park Authority welcomes the publication of this plan, which is a result of a considerable amount of hard work by the parish council and the local community.

The detailed representation of the SDNPA on the plan is set out in a table attached to this letter.

Please do get back to me if you have any queries on this representation.

Yours Sincerely



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Chief Executive: Trevor Beattie

Section of policy number	Comments	Recommended Action
Vision	<p>The Vision & objectives for Henfield include planned development, which is small scale and in keeping with the local character. The vision also includes developing links with SDNP and enhancing and promoting the historical cultural character of the village, green space and surrounding landscape. SDNPA welcomes this approach</p>	None
Policy 1	<p>SDNPA welcomes the statement in this policy that proposals which adversely affect the setting of the National Park will be resisted.</p> <p>The final sentence of this policy refers to land west of the Downs Line - should this be east of the Downs Link? Also it is not clear which land is being referred to as the southern escarpment? The South Downs escarpment is south of Henfield but is outside the neighbourhood area.</p>	<p>Clarify area of land which this policy refers to. Consider showing area on map where development restriction will apply.</p>
Policy 4 & 5	<p>The Southgrounds employment site is currently far more open in character than the Business Park site – this policy should mitigate for potential landscape impacts from intensifying and introducing BI-B8 uses here.</p> <p>Landscape screening is required for employment development at the 3 sites in this policy. Suggest providing further clarification of the purposes of screening and design.</p>	<p>Mitigate for potential landscape impacts through design and screening where consistent with the local landscape character.</p> <p>Include statement regarding suitable screening e.g.</p> <p>‘Screening planting is not a solution to poor design and should not be used to routinely screen new development where improved design which reflects local character would render this unnecessary. Where screening is necessary it should be consistent with local landscape character in terms of hedgerow and woodland layout and pattern, as defined in relevant Landscape Character Assessments.’</p>

Policy 8	SDNPA welcomes this policy which promotes improving super-fast broadband access and is in line with the SDNP PMP policy 51.	None
Policy 12	This is a clear and effective policy which seeks to retain the architectural and historic character of the local buildings and landscape. In particular, SDNPA welcomes the 1 st criteria to preserve important local views.	Reference should also be made to potential for development to have impacts on long distance views from high ground (SDNP) to the south.
Policy 14	SDNPA welcomes this Green Infrastructure policy. Comments regarding the use of landscape screening in policies 4 & 5 apply here also. Also in this policy it would be beneficial to specifically recommend that new developments provide new connections to, and improve the accessibility of the footpath network both within the village and to the wider network. Local shortcuts within the village are important for encouraging walkability.	Include statement regarding suitable landscape screening. Include requirement to protect and improve the local footpath network.
Map of Local Green Spaces	The footpath network is not shown on the Local Green Space map in the plan & it would be useful/helpful to connectivity thinking if the PROW were shown as well. From SDNP point of view the connections from the village to the Park are important although the park landscape is also enjoyed remotely from footpaths and bridleways with views to the south anyway	Show footpath network and PROW on map.
Evidence base	The South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment is not on the list. Whilst the SDNP only makes up a small part of the parish it is recommended that the SDILCA is included on this list because it is the relevant LCA for the SDNP & also because it identifies views & visibility beyond the Park along the scarp slope which is relevant in this location.	Include SDILCA in list of evidence documents.

