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15<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Please ask for: Charlotte Hardy

Our Ref: AB/SEA/2

Dear Mrs Brown

### **Revised SEA Screening Determination of Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for your SEA Screening Request Form and Draft Plan received on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The Council fully supports the community's initiative to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Neighbourhood planning aims to give people greater ownership of plans and policies that affect their area. The government is clear that the intention of Neighbourhood Development Plans should be to set out policies on the development and use of land in a neighbourhood area and that the local planning authority has a duty to support production of the plan.

Our duty in respect to this aspect is to screen the expected contents of the Plan and environmental information outlined, to determine whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.

These comments only relate to the need for either a Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC) or an assessment under the Birds Directive (92/43/EEC). They are based solely on the information submitted and/or provided to this authority.

#### **ADC comments**

As part of good planning practice, ADC have highlighted and provided guidance in terms of addressing this aspect and these comments follow in that vein.

In this instance, the ADC Opinion Request Form and the Aldingbourne Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-36 plus the evidence base documents on the Aldingbourne website are sufficient to determine that:

- the environmental characteristics, especially in terms of the sensitivity to the landscape designation, of the Parish has been taken into account;

## Arun District Neighbourhood Plan Checklist

This checklist is for Neighbourhood Plans covering Arun District. Due to the high volume of neighbourhood plans across the county we have had to focus our detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest.

Together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:  
[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit_6524_7da381.pdf)

The below checklist takes you through the issues we would consider in reviewing your Plan. We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment.

We recommend completing this to check whether we are likely to have any concerns with your Neighbourhood Plan at later stages.

### Flood Risk

Your Neighbourhood Plan should conform to national and local policies on flood risk:

- National Planning Policy Framework – para.100  
'Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'
- Arun District Local Plan Publication Version 2014 - Draft Policy W DM2  
'Development in areas at risk of from flooding... will only be permitted where all of the following criteria have been satisfied: the sequential test in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework...'

If your Neighbourhood Plan is proposing sites for development check whether there are any areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3 within the proposed site allocations.

How?  Input postcodes or place names at:  
<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&y=355134.0&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=e&topic=floodmap>

If there are no areas of Flood Zones 2 or 3: We are pleased to see that all development proposed through your Neighbourhood Plan has been directed to areas of lowest risk of flooding. This is consistent with the aims of national planning policy and the emerging policies in the Arun District Local Plan.

If you are aware that any of the sites have previously suffered flooding or are at risk of other sources of flood risk such as surface water or groundwater flooding we recommend you seek the advice of West Sussex County Council and Arun District Council.

If sites proposed  In accordance with national planning policy the Sequential Test should