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Please ask for: Charlotte Hardy

Our Ref: WA/SEA

Dear Ray

SEA Screening Determination of Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your SEA Screening Opinion Request and accompanying document received on 3rd August 2015.

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 conclusion and 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 State of the Parish Report (March 2015); Addendum to the State of Parish Report (August 2015); Site Appraisal Analysis; Map 1 – Walberton Housing Sites Plan and Map 2 – Neighbourhood News 3, are sufficient to determine that:

- the content of the Plan does not propose anything above the allocation outlined in the emerging Local Plan, which has been assessed by the appraisal work informing it; and
- there will be no significant environmental effects to result from the proposals proposed in the Plan.

Therefore this letter is to confirm that **an environmental assessment is not required** of the Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell Neighbourhood Plan.

Ultimately any decision over the eventual contents of the Final Submission Plan rests with the Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Plan Group. However, if the contents of the Plan is revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (e.g. any new or changes to nature conservation designations), then the comments contained in this letter would need to be reconsidered again to take account of the changes.

Yours Sincerely

Charlotte Hardy
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer