

26 August 2015

Mrs Sam Shippen FCIS, Fellow ILCM, CMC
Locum Parish Clerk
West Chiltington Parish Council
Parish reading Room
Church Street
West Chiltington
Pulborough
West Sussex, RH20 2JW

Dear Sam,

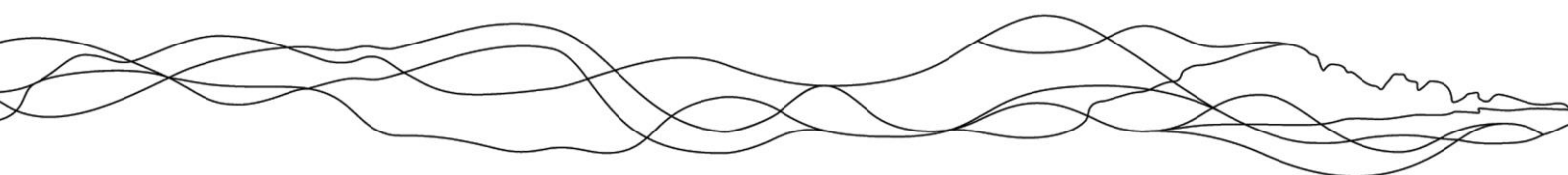
Subject: West Chiltington Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031

Thank you for consulting the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on the pre-submission consultation draft of the West Chiltington 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.

A small area of West Chiltington parish is in the South Downs National Park (SDNP). On the 17 February 2014, the SDNPA designated this area as a Neighbourhood Area following an application from West Chiltington Parish Council. As only a very small area of the Parish is within the SDNP, these comments focus on elements of the West Chiltington Neighbourhood Plan (WCNP) most relevant to the National Park.

Within the 'Planning Context' of the introduction, reference is made to the SDNPA and the emerging SDNP Local Plan. The details are slightly out of date. We will be consulting on the Local Plan – preferred options from the 2 September to 28 October 2015. While it's recognised that there is likely to be very limited development within the National Park part of the Neighbourhood Area, there are emerging SDNP Local Plan policies on Biodiversity & Geodiversity (Policy SD12), Historic Environment (Policy SD11), Recreation (Policy SD12) and Rivers & Watercourses (Policy SD16) which will be relevant to land within the National Park and to WCNP policy EI in particular.

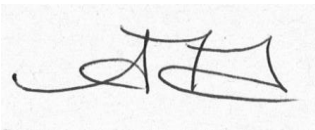
The setting of the National Park is important for conserving and enhancing the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park. We have considered the proposals of the WCNP, including the scale and location of development and do not consider these to have any potential significant adverse impact on the National Park or its setting. Tranquil places is one of the special qualities of the National Park and dark night skies are an intrinsic quality of many places within the National Park. We would ask that the WCNP incorporates the protection of these special qualities in policies relating to development proposals close to the National Park boundary. In particular, such development proposals should conserve and where possible enhance relative tranquility, in relation to light pollution and dark night skies.



We note that the Built Up Area boundary for West Chiltington Common has not been modified through the WCNP. We support the western boundary which does not include long gardens and thereby helps to protect the soft transition from residential to countryside.

We note Policy EI and reference to protecting Monkmead Woods which are in the National Park. The reasoned justification for this policy should be clarified to say that Monkmead Woods are largely within the National Park. The Site of Special Scientific Interest – Hurston Warren, forms part of the woods and is also predominantly within the National Park.

Yours sincerely,



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