

**LETTER to Tim Slaney (Director of Planning)**  
**Re. Neighbourhood Plan EXAMINATION DELAY**

I was surprised when Kevin Wright rang to tell me that the examination of Stedham with Iping's Neighbourhood Plan had been put on hold because of its reference to the emerging Local Plan.

As I did not recall this being in our submission, I have researched the Reg 16 document carefully. I was correct in that there was no such connection made; other than that all NDPs need to be in general conformity with strategic policies.

It seems to me that the problem has arisen from your authority's submission to the Examiner following Reg 16 responses. Unfortunately, the Parish Council was not notified of these proposed changes before issue to the Examiner Nigel McGurk.

The text suggested that SDNPA had led on putting forward a detailed proposal for development on the Sawmills in their Local Plan and that SIPC had copied it into the Neighbourhood Plan. This is a complete reversal of the true sequence of events as attested by records of meeting notes and emails. Coupled to the proposed insertion of a timeframe for completing the making of the SDLP in the summer, I can understand why the Examiner might have taken the decision he did.

I enclose a copy of the Parish Council's response to the Reg 16 submissions, which has been forwarded to the Examiner. Included are the paragraphs that set out a correction to the misleading insertion by SDNPA.

At our Parish Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February, I was instructed to write to you to request that you contact Nigel

McGurk to set the record straight and allow the Examination to be completed.

You will appreciate that both Councillors and residents have put in an enormous amount of time and energy to reach this stage. They will be extremely annoyed if text changes by SDNPA staff have caused it to become delayed and frustrated if they have to wait until after the summer for a referendum to be held.

I look forward to hearing that you will be able to assist us to avoid losing the impetus generated in the parish during the Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

We had hoped for our Neighbourhood Plan to come to the planning meeting of SDNPA on 14th March 2019, post examination. Although this will not now be possible one of the parish councilors would like to speak as an update to the planning committee members.

Regards

Lucy Petrie  
Chairman Stedham with Iping Parish Council  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2019