

Report to Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council Meeting 13 October 2021

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Examination.

It was agreed with CDC and the Examiner that the examination be suspended to allow time to investigate and consider the implications of the HRA produced by CDC and to determine if there was an alternative course of action. The CDC HRA had concluded that the accumulative impact of new development on fresh water supplies in the North Sussex area had likely potential adverse impact on the sensitive Arun Valley SPA, SAC and Ramsar.

Further Advice

The Steering Group sought professional advice from Locality (C.Govt body supporting Neighbourhood Planning). Locality provided technical support through AECOM.

AECOM have now produced a further HRA for our Neighbourhood Plan area, a copy of which is attached. This HRA has concluded that with modification to policy wording within the neighbourhood plan, as set out in the HRA and below, this would ensure that the Neighbourhood plan would have no adverse effect on international designated sites. The HRA has considered all potential new development in the Parish including that allocated by CDC and windfall development.

The HRA conclusion reads as follows:

"4.1 Following Appropriate Assessment, a recommendation was made to improve the policy framework provided in the Plaistow & Ifold Neighbourhood Plan. It is considered that in order to draw a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity 'in-combination' with other projects and plans regarding abstraction effects on the Arun Valley SPA/Ramsar/SAC, text should be added into the Neighbourhood Plan, possibly as a new policy:

'Applicants for net new housing within the parish will need to maximise the potential for water neutrality by minimising water usage levels in new residential development. Developments should be designed to minimise water consumption with an overall target of 90 litres per day per person across the whole development and incorporating as appropriate the water saving measures. This policy will remain in force until a sustainable source of supply is brought into use for the Sussex North WRZ'.

4.2 It is concluded that subject to recommendations made in this assessment, combined with the overarching Chichester District Council Local Plan Review 2035, the Plaistow & Ifold Neighbourhood Plan will contain sufficient policy framework to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of international designated site will occur in isolation or in combination with other projects and plans."

Recommendation

The NPSG recommend that the Parish Council endorses the conclusion of the AECOM HRA and propose to CDC and the Examiner that the NP section on Infrastructure be amended with an additional **Policy Ci3 Water Usage in New Residential Development**

Applicants for net new housing within the parish will need to maximise the potential for water neutrality by minimising water usage levels in new residential development. Developments should be designed to minimise water consumption with an overall target of 90 litres per day per person across the whole development and incorporating as appropriate the water saving measures. This policy will remain in force until a sustainable source of supply is brought into use for the Sussex North WRZ.

A preamble to the policy would be required as for other policies in the plan to explain and justify the requirement for the new policy. This would be taken from the HRA document but first it should be established that the proposed additional policy is an acceptable way forward with CDC and the Examiner.

The neighbourhood plan already has an aim, AIM 4, to Safeguard Water Resources. This AIM can be applied to measures undertaken by the PC with the various Authorities to improve the reduction in use of water by existing households and businesses in the Parish, thus aiming for water neutrality. And the wording of AIM 4 could be extended to make this more explicit. The Parish Council is also recommended to propose this to CDC and the Examiner.

VDS

CDC should inform the Examiner that they have yet to adopt the VDS and this may happen by the end of this year and until such time references to the VDS in the NP will need to remain as given 'emerging VDS'.

Sara Burrell

Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group