

Hurst Green Parish Council
The Parish Office, Hurst Green Village Hall
Station Road, Hurst Green
East Sussex, TN19 7PL

Rother District Council
Frank Rallings, Neighbourhood Planning Liaison Consultant
Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex TN39 3JX
(also via email)

18th September 2018

Dear Frank,

The Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were keen to write on a number of matters for your advice and kind attention.

1 - Hurst Green Sites

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group noted the e-mail from Holly Harrison of the 14th August 2018 asking that the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan send details of all sites that had come forward as part of our neighbourhood plan process, so that they could be assessed as part of the DaSA.

As I am sure you will have appreciated, as we have yet to receive a response from RDC to our letter of the 26th of July 2018 where we stated that we were concerned at RDC's regard for Hurst Green's designation as a neighbourhood plan area [by continuing to include Hurst Green in the DaSA and assess sites in Hurst Green], a decision was made by the Steering Group to follow the advice stated in the RDC e-mail:

"...unless you are able to provide written details of the sites by return email, we will not be in a position to assess them as part of the DaSA."

2 - Strategic Environmental Assessment for Hurst Green

The Hurst Green NP Steering Group understand that to be 'made', our neighbourhood plan must meet certain basic conditions, including ensuring our plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations, including Directive 2001/42/EC ('on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'), which we understand is often referred to, and is the SEA Regulations under the UK's Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations.

We understand that by our allocating sites this may trigger the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment, and that RDC would likely be keen to undertake a screening as soon as sufficient information on the potential environmental effects of our plan is known.

To assist in this determination we enclose the details of sites that are forming part of our initial site assessment. These are enclosed as Appendix A and B.

We would be grateful for clarification under the SEA Regulations that RDC as the 'responsible authority' will assist Hurst Green to 'determine whether or not our plan is likely to have significant effects, and under the 'Duty to Assist' provision in the Localism Act, are able to provide a screening determination on whether or not a SEA is required for Hurst Green, and if so, provide the Steering Group with information on what processes are in place for our area?

Yours sincerely

Andrew Brown

Councillor, Hurst Green Parish Council
Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan

Steve Wright

Councillor, Hurst Green Parish Council
Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan

enclosed:

Appendix A - HGNP - Silver Hill

Appendix B - HGNP - Hurst Green Village