

October 26th 2024

EXAMINATION OF THE  
HORSHAM DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2023-2040

Representation Number 1192534

Dear Kerry Trueman,

Thank you for your letter of October 14th regarding the examination of the Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040. I will not be able to attend any of the hearing sessions regarding this but have enclosed a letter to Luke Fleming regarding several aspects of this Local Plan which I am concerned about, and would be grateful if you could pass the letter enclosed to him.

Thank you for your help in this matter,

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Stonor



October 26th 2024

Dear Mr Luke Fleming,

I am writing to you in connection with the Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040 with regard to the proposed inclusion by HDC of a number of sites in their local plan for development which are not in the Neighbourhood Plans. Can the inclusion of these 'non-Neighbourhood Plan' sites be described correctly by HDC as 'strategic' or are they 'non-strategic'. If they are determined to be 'non-strategic' then they should not be included in the local plan as the NPPF indicates that the Neighbourhood Plans takes precedence over non-strategic policy (see Google sheet 'A' attached).

Assuming that these 'overrules' of the Neighbourhood Plans are considered to be part of a strategic policy is there a legal requirement for HDC to state what strategic policy has been invoked and on what grounds have these sites been chosen by HDC when previous HDC administrations have not considered them suitable for development.

An example of this is Sandgate Nurseries Strategic Policy HA9 West End Lane Henfield West Sussex. Two planning applications have been turned down by HDC and one of those was later turned down on appeal. HDC cited a large number of reasons for planning refusal in 2021 on this site which have now been ignored in this local plan by the new HDC administration with no explanation or justification as to why previous decisions made by HDC are no longer relevant. This could hardly be considered sound but is it legal? Does not a new Council administration (the previous one was Conservative the current one is Liberal Democrat) have to pay some respect to the decisions and policies of the old one?

One of the sections in HDC's Local Plan 'questionnaire' asks what you consider to be necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound and the answer I have given is that it should comply with the Neighbourhood Plan's requirements unless there is a very compelling 'strategic policy' reason not to do so which should be explained clearly and comprehensively.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Stonor



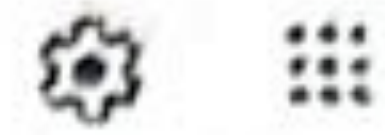
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The NPPF indicates that the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan. This enables Neighbourhood Plan policies to be very effective in shaping development in their area. date, the presumption in favour of sustainable development will apply.