Wealden District (Incorporating part of the South Downs National Park) Representation on the Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy

Working in Partnership

This response relates to the proposed modification	
MM	**WS 35**
(Please add numeric reference e.g. MM22 or Wealden District Council/ South Downs National Park Authority modification WS e.g. WS 23)	

Declaration:	I consider the proposed modification will assist the submitted Core Strategy to be found sound ☐ /unsound ☒ (*place a cross in the box to show which option you have chosen) for the following reasons:

Reasons Given:	Response from Withyham Parish Council to the Modifications of the Proposed Core Strategy Development Plan Withyham Parish Council is unclear why the South Downs National Park, in which the Ashdown Forest does not lie, has any relevance or indeed should have influence over any proposed modifications. It is unclear what is meant by a partnership between the two authorities. The National Park Authority appears to have an influence that considerably exceeds its boundary and area of authority. Withyham Parish Council is particularly concerned by the 400 metre exclusion zone for net increases of one or more dwellings and further mitigation requirements within 7 kilometres of the Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area. Withyham Parish Council is particularly affected by these proposals since all villages within its boundaries fall within these constraints. The Parish Council has the following reasons for its concern: 1. At first sight the proposed exclusion zone and mitigation requirements should not restrict all development if there is any risk of a net increase in car usage and people. The Parish Council has noted that the three month moratorium at present in existence whilst the core strategy is out for consultation has been used to turn down all development at the present time ignoring tried and tested criteria. The Parish Council is most concerned that having embarked on this approach all future development that could and should be sustainable will be dismissed within the 7 km exclusion zone. 2. The Parish Council under new legislation has a stated ambition of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. It believes that imposing the proposed conditions by modification to the Core Strategy will effectively mean that the Parish Council's will not be able to make reasoned and sensible decisions in relation to future development for the benefit of all its residents. The Parish Council unusually has little if any suitable alternative green space under its control and therefore would not be able to fulfil the arbitrary criteria that have been suggested by the modification. If that is the net effect of such a proposal then the Parish Council respectfully suggests that Wealden District Council would effectively be attempting to override primary legislation giving Parish Council the power to produce, plan and develop neighbourhood plans, including planning for low cost housing on a small scale. 3. The Parish Council firmly believes that the Withyham area is worthy of its AONB status and the planning constraints that it imposes and through its planning committee supports these. However it believes that the proposals are unfair to the residents of North Wealden putting them on a different footing from other residents still within the proposed exclusion zones that fall under a different planning authority. 4. The decision of the inspector was based on a Habitats Regulation Assessment which made a number of general suggestions which the Parish Council would suggest require further testing and consideration before being entrenched in a policy that may have a huge effect on sustainable development within North Wealden.

If this is a new matter that you have raised please complete the following I wish ☐ / do not wish ☒ (*place a cross in the box to show which option you have chosen) for this matter to be heard in front of the Inspector	
Signed:	Linda A Butcher, Parish Clerk
Name and Address:	Withyham Parish Council Parish Office, The Nook Withyham Road Groombridge East Sussex TN3 9QP
E-Mail Address:	

If on behalf of a company, please state:	Withyham Parish Council
Date:	12th June 2012

Please place a cross in the box to show which option you have chosen	
I would wish to be notified of the publication of the recommendations of any person appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Core Strategy	Yes ☒ No ☐
I would wish to be notified of the adoption of the Core Strategy	Yes ☒ No ☐

Note: If completing this in hardcopy form, please use additional sheets if necessary.

Please return this form by **5pm on Wednesday 13th June 2012**:

By post to: Head of Planning and Environmental Policy, Wealden District Council, Freepost SEA 10959, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1BR

By email to: ldf@wealden.gov.uk

Data Protection Act 1998 and Freedom of Information Act 2000
Representations cannot be treated in confidence. Regulation 30 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended, requires copies of all representations to be made publicly available. The Council will also provide names and associated representations on its website but will not publish personal information such as telephone numbers, e-mails or private addresses. By submitting a representation on the Proposed Modifications you confirm that you agree to this and accept responsibility for your comments.

Please telephone 01892 602007 or e-mail ldf@wealden.gov.uk if you require assistance in submitting your representation or if further information is required. If you, or somebody you know, would like the information (guidance notes, forms etc) in large print, braille, audio tape/CD or in another language please let us know.