Matter 8 / Councillor Stephen Shing

Stephen Shing
18 Coppice Avenue
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN20 9PN

15th December 2011

Dear Ms Benton,

Legal Compliance

- **Has the CS had regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy?**
- **Is the CS in general accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and public consultation requirements?**

In July 2007, during the Wealden District Council local development framework issues & options consultation period, my group (Cllrs Oi Lin Shing, Daniel Shing and Stephen Shing) requested for Wealden District Council to provide hard copies of the public consultation form for our local residents. This would give a more realistic opportunity for many of our residents to respond as about 40% of our population is over the age of 60 and prefer hard copies. Furthermore, not all our residents have internet access or are computer literate. Wealden District Council responded to our request, however, they only supplied a few copies, an insufficient number of copies for the number of residents requesting the forms.

We made further repeated requests for more copies, however, the Council's response was that they did not have the resources to produce more copies.

Therefore, to save paper and costs, we asked the council whether copies of only the relevant pages in relation to Willingdon and Polegate from the consultation form would be accepted by the council as a submission. The council informed us that it would be an acceptable submission by itself.

As a result, residents posted 746 responses directly to Wealden District Council in the form of the copies of the pages relevant to Polegate and Willingdon (as appendix local development framework issues & options consultation page 3 & 4).

A few days before the deadline, Wealden District Council contacted us for a meeting to inform us that the Council would be rejecting those copies and that they would not reply to those residents involved as there were insufficient resources to inform them that their submission was rejected. In addition, those residents who took the time to respond were not provided with an opportunity to re-submit their views, which is not acceptable.

On 15th October 2007, five members of Wealden District Council, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing, Nick Ellwood, Oi Lin Shing and Geoff Rowe did "CALL IN" the council's decision on the "LDF Core Strategy – Issues and Options Consultation responses" about the council's decision to reject those 749 responses from Polegate and Willingdon residents. The CALL IN meeting agenda on 13th November and the minutes contain further information, which is self-explanatory.

as appendix 2 page 5 **Environment Scrutiny Committee**
Tuesday, 13th November, 2007 2.00 p.m agenda page 13
Appendix D - Core Strategy Report, item 37
http://council.wealden.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=499&MId=2115&Ver=4

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Shing
Wealden District Councillor
East Sussex County Councillor
Polegate Town Councillor
Willingdon & Jevington Parish Councillor