

I am grateful to the Chairman for allowing me to speak on behalf of Findon Parish Council regarding our draft NP. It is not possible to entirely encapsulate all the detailed points made in our letter to you of April 11th, so I will confine myself to those points which I believe are central to our submission.

A NP, to be in conformity, must meet what are known as the 'Basic Conditions' if it is to pass Examination. Your officers have agreed (point 3.2) that the plan meets the basic conditions, but it then goes on to suggest that the plan fails to contribute to achieving sustainable development.

SDNPA sought an allocation of 50 houses to be built within the Findon Parish boundary, which was reduced when it was accepted that any development on the Wyevale site would harm a successful Garden centre providing employment, and in any case was outside the settlement boundary. Although this site was assumed to provide up to 40 houses, the allocation was then only reduced to 20 houses.

The NP Steering group then searched diligently for sites via a 'Call for Sites' in 2015, without success, and this process and result was shared with the SDNPA. The SDNPA's own SHLAA also eliminated any land outside the settlement boundary after considering the Landscape Survey that was commissioned in 2014.

In late May 2015 the SDNPA advised they would then do their own call for sites, (letter 29/5/15 -Amy Tyler-Jones) and promised to acquaint us with their results. As we never received any feedback from SDNPA despite their promises we have rightly assumed that neither they nor us have succeeded in identifying any available land, and also failed in their duty to inform us as promised.

As to finding land outside the development boundary, which itself rides totally counter to 80%+ of residents attending the Public Consultation event, no land has been identified that doesn't conflict with either Findon's setting within the National Park, the Landscape Survey, or the previous policies of Arun DC, and this in spite of an exhaustive consideration of all sites adjacent to the settlement boundary.

We submit that the arbitrary figure of 20 houses is not sustainable for Findon so far as designated sites is concerned. Having said that it is the view of Findon Parish Council that there will be at least 20+ houses built in windfall garden sites within the village during the life of the NP, adding to the life and sustainability of Findon as it continues to grow and prosper. Just this week we have been informed of an outline application to build 5 low cost houses behind School Hill.

Over 60 volunteers and councillors contributed to a thoroughly researched plan over the last 2+ years, to have that plan criticised and not supported on grounds that fail to take into consideration all the efforts of trying to meet the arbitrary demands set by SDNPA will be a setback to a village that was

wholeheartedly in favour of looking forward to a Neighbourhood Plan that would shape the village over the next 20 years.

It will of course be for an independent examiner to judge whether the plan can proceed, however we would ask that the Officer's report be amended to provide at least some positive feedback on the extensive work contained within the plan.