**WIVELSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Office

Adj. to The Cock Inn

North Common Road

Wivelsfield Green

RH17 7RH

12 November 2015

Dear Consultee,

**Statutory Consultation of the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Wivelsfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

On Monday 16 November 2015 we shall be entering into the six week period of Statutory Consultation of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan.

**The Consultation runs from Monday 16th November to 5pm on Wednesday 30th December 2015**

**Consultation documents**

The Sustainability Appraisal is being made available for consultation alongside the Draft Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan (February 2015). These documents can be accessed at the following website <http://wivelsfield.net>.

Within the Neighbourhood Plan section there is a link to the Community21 website where you will find details of the appraisal document. If you require a hard copy please contact the Wivelsfield Parish Clerk on the following telephone number 01444 471898.

The documents are also available to view at the Parish Council Office at the following address:-

Parish Council Office, Adj to The Cock Inn, North Common Road, Wivelsfield Green, East Sussex, RH17 7RH.

The Opening hours are:

Monday 9.00am – 11.30am

Tuesday 9.00am – 12.00pm

Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm

**How to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal**

As required by planning legislation, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (February 2015) has also been made available. However, this consultation relates to the Sustainability Appraisal for the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan and so we request that, insofar as possible, comments specifically relate to the SA. We acknowledge that the SA process that has been undertaken may influence your view of the Neighbourhood Plan, however please note that earlier comments in respect of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan made during the February 2015 Draft Plan consultation should not repeated and these comments will be considered again during a full review of the neighbourhood plan evidence base prior to submission of the updated Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council.

In your response it would be useful if you could indicate your overall view:-

Agree with the Appraisal – Object to the Appraisal

Please ensure that your name, organisation or company and contact details are included in your response otherwise your comments will not be considered.

Your comments should be submitted in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council. The preferred method for response is requested by email.

Please respond by email to neighbourhoodplan@wivelsfield.net

Alternatively, please respond by post to - Clerk to Wivelsfield Parish Council, Parish Council Office, Adj to The Cock Inn, North Common Road, Wivelsfield Green, East Sussex, RH17 7RH.

**Reason for SEA**

Prior to the February 2015 Draft Plan consultation, Lewes District Council published a SEA screening opinion which concluded that a SEA was not required for the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan. In May 2015, an amended version of the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents were submitted to Lewes District Council, although these were not published under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. Following this, in July 2015, an update to the earlier screening opinion was published by Lewes District Council which, on the basis of reasons including updated National Planning Practice Guidance and recent case law, concluded that a SEA would be required for the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan. Subsequently, the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan was pended to allow the SEA process to take place and inform a revised submission version of the plan that will be submitted to LDC in due course. Therefore, this SEA appraises the proposed sites for development, policy options and draft policies contained in the February 2015 Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Further details of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process can be found in Sections 1 and 2 of the SEA.

**Next Steps**

A full review of the neighbourhood plan evidence base (including the SEA) will take place informing the final Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan that will be submitted to Lewes District Council and to the Independent Inspector. The submission version of the neighbourhood plan will be accompanied by an updated SEA which will incorporate feedback from consultees and include a full review of all site and policy appraisals.

If you have any queries please contact me via the following email address: ian.dawson@wivelsfield.net .

If you are not the correct person this email/letter is intended for please forward to the appropriate colleague or department and advise us of the recipient.

Thank you for your support, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Ian Dawson

Chairman Wivelsfield Parish Council

 Stat Consultees v1.6