

FAO Duncan Smith

Dear Duncan

Thank you for your Regulation 16 consultation on the submitted version of the Highamton Neighbourhood Plan.

In previous advice on the Plan submitted in response to Regulation 14 and SEA Screening consultations we have drawn attention to the desirability of additional evidence to appropriately substantiate policy HNPH1 (previously HNP11 and before that again HNPH1) which allocates land for development at Church Road.

We suggested that in the interests of expediency your authority's Conservation Officer might provide written advice on the in-principle suitability of the proposed site for development relative to its potential for harmful impact on the significance of relevant heritage assets. This to complement that advice already provided by the County Archaeologist.

This information was shared with us in an email from your authority dated 1st May 2020 (see attached) and provided helpful and definitive confirmation that the site could be developed without causing harm to heritage assets. This demonstration of conformity with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment provides us with the assurance and reassurance which we sought on this specific issue and we therefore have no further comments to make on it.

We note that the advice of your authority's Conservation Officer also included recommendations concerning the modification of the policy to ensure that development appropriately reflected local historic character. We note too that the community has provided details of its response to this advice in Appendix 12 of the submitted Plan. Given that this conversation relates to matters beyond those we had expressed concern over we are happy to leave their resolution to the discretion of your authority and the Examiner.

There are no other issues associated with the Plan upon which we wish to submit.

Kind regards

David

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