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GILLINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Regulation 16 Consultation: 4 January – 15 February 2018

Response Form

Gillingham Town Council has submitted a Neighbourhood Plan for Gillingham to North Dorset District Council (NDDC) under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Regulation 16 requires NDDC to publicise the plan on its website and to invite representations for a prescribed period of time. All representations made at this stage will be sent to an independent examiner.

The submitted plan and supporting documents can be accessed online from

dorsetforyou.gov.uk/Proposed-Gillingham-Plan

All comments must be received by **5pm Thursday 15 February 2018**. We cannot accept late responses.

Please return completed forms to:

Email: planningpolicy@north-dorset.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy (North Dorset), South Walks House, South Walks Road, DORCHESTER, DT1 1UZ

Part A – Personal Details

Please complete this part of the form as unfortunately we cannot accept confidential or anonymous representations. By submitting this form you consent to your information being disclosed to third parties for this purpose. Personal details will not be visible on our website, although they will be shown on paper copies that will be sent to the independent examiner and available for inspection.

Note, if comments are being made by an agent, all correspondence will be sent to the agent unless requested otherwise.

	Details of person(s) making response	Details of appointed agent (if applicable)
Title	Ms	
First Name	Helena	
Last Name	Bryant	
Job Title (where relevant)		
Organisation (where relevant)		
Address		
Postcode		
Tel. No.		
Email Address		

Part B – Representation

1. Which document does the comment relate?

Tick one box only.

x	Neighbourhood Plan – Submission version
	Neighbourhood Area Map (included within the neighbourhood plan document)
	Consultation Statement
	Basic Conditions Statement
	Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Determination Notice
	Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report
	Other <i>Please specify:</i>

2. Which part of the document does the comment relate?

Identify the text that you are commenting on as appropriate.

	<i>Location of Text</i>
Whole document	
Section / chapter / appendix	10 Community Facilities
Policy	
Page	

3. Do you wish to?

Tick one box only.

	Support
X	Support with conditions
	Object
	Make an observation

4. Please give your reasons in the box below.

The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan looks very comprehensive and covers a wide range of community services that are available to residents and visitors.

It appears to leave out a couple of the most basic civic services – providing drinking water and public toilets.

1) Drinking water free for all

From earliest times, towns have prided themselves on providing drinking fountains, so that everyone from richest to poorest can freely drink water and (if rich enough) enjoy the beauty of the fountains.

More recently, we have given up on this, and left people to buy water in plastic bottles, or even worse, sugary sweet fizzy drinks.

We have problems with disposal of mountains of single use plastic bottles, and also with increasing obesity among the UK population.

Could Gillingham provide drinking fountains where we could all drink pure water or refresh water bottles? This would certainly help the Gillingham community with the problems mentioned.

If we wanted beautiful drinking fountains, could we consider a crowd-funded project to help do this?

2) Public toilets

I visited Gillingham for the first time ever exactly a year ago. On that occasion, I had an appointment but arrived a little early after a 4 hour drive. I assumed that Gillingham was a civilised place and would have a public toilet, and was encouraged to see a sign pointing to the public toilet just off the High St in the High Street Car Park. Imagine my horror when I found that it was locked up and inaccessible. Fortunately, disaster was averted when I found that it was still possible to get into the Disabled toilet.

This is a true account of my first encounter with Gillingham.

Now I know that I could go into Costa or a pub and buy something and use their facilities, a new visitor can't track these facilities down in time, and this isn't a very welcoming situation. It doesn't truly represent Gillingham and its people, who I have found to be very welcoming.

Are there any plans to update the public toilets? If so, it would be good to cover this in the Neighbourhood Plan. It is not reasonable to expect strangers to find facilities hidden away at the station/library etc. It would be good to know what the update might consist of, for example, would we have to pay to use them, would they all be gender neutral, would they all be suitable for disabled people, would they all provide nappy change facilities?

If there is no plan to update the public toilets, this approach should be explained too – are retailers/pubs/restaurants all expected to allow people to use their facilities whether customers or not? Are some premises paid a grant to allow public to use their facilities?

Do we expect visitors to find a pub/café and pay the proprietors something for using their facilities? Could the available facilities be signposted so that visitors to the town can find them?

5. Please give details of any suggested modifications in the box below.

- 1) Would like to see allowance made for provision of fresh water drinking fountains. If possible, attractive drinking fountains that would make it a pleasure to use for residents and visitors.
- 2) Section 10 should describe approach to provision of public toilets as these are a basic community facility. If public toilets are to be replaced and updated, that should be described. If not, the plan should explain how visitors should be guided to facilities, explain what toilet facilities are available to residents and visitors and what conditions apply.

Continue overleaf if necessary

6. Do you wish to be notified of the District Council's decision to make or refuse to make the neighbourhood plan?

Please tick one box only.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Signature: Helena Bryant

Date: 10/02/2018

If submitting the form electronically, no signature is required.