

Jo Witherden

From: Potter, Jack [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 April 2019 17:23
To: Jo Witherden
Subject: RE: Upper Marshwood Vale neighbourhood plan - SEA and HRA consultation

Dear Jo Witherden

Thank you for submitting a screening and scoping request for the Upper Marshwood Vale neighbourhood plan SEA and HRA. Natural England do not consider that an HRA or SEA is required based on the information available and submitted.

Notwithstanding this advice, neighbourhood plans should be reflective of national policy and the local plan. National Planning Policy Framework gives several directions for this with regards to biodiversity;

- Para 20 requires strategic policies to set out a strategy for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
- Para 117 states that planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land while safeguarding and improving the environment.
- Para 170 states *“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”*.
- Para 171 states that plans should take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
- Para 174 gives direction to authorities in how to achieve a net gain through plans by promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

The local authority endorses the use of the Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan where the thresholds are triggered to assist applicants and strategy documents in achieving policy compliance. The allocations within the proposed neighbourhood plan trigger the threshold and are likely to require a BMEP. While not an integral element of this screening and scoping request, reflection of this in the neighbourhood plan would be beneficial upon review.

As identified in the report, much of the plan area is within the AONB which is afforded the highest level of protection under national policy. It is strongly advised to consult with the AONB on progression of the neighbourhood plan.

Kind Regards,

Jack Potter

Lead Adviser
Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team

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From: Jo Witherden [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 April 2019 10:38
To: Potter, Jack [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Upper Marshwood Vale neighbourhood plan - SEA and HRA consultation

Hi Jack – here was the original email and attachment as sent on 25 March - Jo

From: Jo Witherden [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2019 17:03
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Upper Marshwood Vale neighbourhood plan - SEA and HRA consultation

Dear Consultee

Please find attached the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening and scoping consultation report for the Upper Marshwood Vale neighbourhood plan. The report also refers to a heritage study (prepared by Kim Sankey) and an ecology study (prepared by Bryan Edwards) which I am happy to send to you on request.

At the current time we are progressing on the basis that a full SEA should be prepared, given that the plan will be allocating sites for development (albeit these are likely to be modest in scale). We are hoping to consult on the pre-submission plan from mid May, and would normally have started the SEA process earlier, but there has been a lot of uncertainty regarding the possible level and location of development that would be included in the plan, hence the delay. It is now likely that the plan will include two site allocations, and the working draft has the following policies currently proposed:

- The Colmer Stud Farm site, Marshwood (site allocation for parking area, village shop and 3 dwellings)
- The Three Counties Nursery, Marshwood (site allocation for about 4 live-work units)
- Important community facilities (identifying important facilities to retain)
- Recreational access to the countryside (retaining and improving public rights of way and publicly accessible green spaces)
- Local landscape character and features (identifying those landscape and heritage features that contribute to the character and should be respected, and encouraging the removal / screening of detrimental features)

- The residential conversion of existing buildings (similar to PD rights that exist outside the AONB but limited to those buildings that make a positive contribution to the character of the area)
- Supporting small-scale employment enterprises (supporting home working and also criteria-based policy for small-scale B1-type employment with good access to the B3165)

As you are aware, the first step in preparing an SEA is to collate some basic information on the environmental sensitivity of the area, and to consult the three statutory bodies on the possible scope of the assessment. We have looked at both the West Dorset SEA scoping report and the Broadwindsor Area Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping to inform this.

Please therefore accept this email as the scoping consultation under the 2004 EA Regulations. The Neighbourhood Plan group would welcome your advice on:

- > The need for a strategic environmental assessment based on the proposed scope of the plan (in order for the new Dorset Council to issue a screening determination in due course if considered necessary)
- > The need for an appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations based on the proposed scope of the plan (primarily a matter for Natural England to comment upon)
- > The scope of the strategic environmental assessment (on the basis that the Parish Council will press ahead with such a report)

I look forward to hearing from you within the next 5 weeks.

Warm regards

Jo Witherden (on behalf of Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan Group, acting for the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council)

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