

Ref 6 Highways England

For the attention of: Neighbourhood Planning Team

Consultation: Bramber Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2031 Submission Version - Regulation 16 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 20120 (as amended)

Highways England Reference: #9954

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for inviting Highways England to comment on this consultation.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity. We will therefore be concerned with proposals and policies that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in the case of Bramber parish, particularly the A27.

We note that the Bramber Parish Housing Needs Assessment identified a target of 62 homes to 2031, of which 8 are within the South Downs National Park area. The highest of the various calculation methods used to derive this target gave a figure of 120 dwellings. The Bramber Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any housing sites because neither of the sites identified through the Call for Sites is considered suitable. Bramber Parish will undertake an early review of its Neighbourhood Plan once the Horsham District Local Plan review to 2036 has established a new spatial strategy for the District. The Draft Horsham District Plan 2019-2036 identifies potential development in Steyning and Bramber for 50 dwellings at the Land at Glebe Farm site.

The Regulation 18 consultation Draft Horsham District Local Plan 2019-2036 document gives a range of housing targets for the District, all of which exceed the current target of 800 homes per year, ranging from 1000 to 1400 homes per year. Therefore the level of housing required to be delivered through Neighbourhood Plans across the District could increase from the current requirement.

Highways England is working with Horsham District Council to agree the transport modelling and assessment of the development proposals within the emerging Horsham District Local Plan review to 2036. We wish to ensure the impacts on the SRN of future development in the emerging Local Plan to 2036, and associated Neighbourhood Plans, are assessed and mitigated appropriately.

Any development that comes forward in Bramber parish would potentially add to the cumulative impacts of the development within the Local Plan across the District upon

the SRN. Consequently, there may be a need for developments across the whole District, including within Bramber parish, to make a proportional contribution towards the SRN improvements required to deliver the full quantum of development in Horsham District. This approach has been adopted by other local authorities in the southeast region. In order to manage expectations, we recommend that developers are made aware of this potential contribution requirement towards cumulative impacts upon the SRN for sites that may not have a serious impact upon the SRN if considered in isolation.

We recommend that the Neighbourhood Plan includes a requirement for any housing development proposal to provide a Transport Assessment/Statement and a note that a proportionate contribution towards SRN improvements may be required to deliver all the development in the Horsham Local Plan due to the cumulative impacts of individual developments.

Please continue to consult Highways England at our inbox:
PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Kind regards,

[Redacted Signature]

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