

For the attention of: Neighbourhood Planning Team

Consultation: Ruser Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2031 Submission Version - Regulation 16 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Highways England Reference: #10100

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 Ruser parish, particularly the M23 and A23.

We note that the Ruser Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any housing development sites on the basis that the Housing Needs Assessment has been more than met by permitted developments for strategic sites that are partly in the Ruser parish area. Ruser Parish has committed to an early review of the Neighbourhood Plan in 2021 when Horsham District Council has agreed any housing number that may be distributed to Ruser Parish in the emerging Horsham District Local Plan review.

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 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.

If any development does come forward in Ruser parish, this 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 Ruser 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,


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Please note that for the foreseeable future we are all working from home. All meetings will be via telephone, Skype or similar. We will continue to seek to work to our statutory and other deadlines. In case of IT or other issues, as a precaution, please copy all emails to PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk . Thank you.