Dear Sir/ Madam,

Wealden District Council (Incorporating part of the South Downs National Park)
Consultation upon Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

You may be aware that during the consultation period on the Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, the National Planning Policy Framework was published by the Government on 27th March 2012. The National Planning Policy Framework came into effect on the date it was published, and therefore is a relevant consideration for the examination of the Core Strategy. The Planning Inspectorate has suggested a model policy wording that it considers would be an appropriate way of reflecting the objective set down in the NPPF for there being a “presumption in favour of sustainable development” and in meeting this expectation. Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have considered this suggestion and agree that the wording of this suggested model Policy together with some explanatory text should be incorporated into the Core Strategy to meet this requirement. This suggested approach is reflected in the letter dated 9th May to the Inspector Mr Michael Moore. The correspondence relating to this matter is available on the Wealden District Council website www.wealden.gov.uk.

There is a legislative requirement that any proposed main modifications be subject to formal consultation. We are therefore writing to inform you that the proposed modifications will be published for consultation on Thursday 5th July 2012 and will run for a period of six weeks closing at 5pm on Thursday 16th August 2012.

To assist the Inspector in his consideration of any submitted comments we recommend that all representations should be made on the prescribed representations form and returned to Head of Planning and Environmental Policy, Wealden District Council, PO Box 49, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 2AZ or by e-mail to ldf@wealden.gov.uk. These will need to be received by no later than 5pm on Thursday 16th August 2012. Only those comments that
are made in writing/email and that are received at the address (or email address) provided within the time period specified will be considered. These Proposed Modifications should be read in conjunction with the Submitted Core Strategy.

Please note that the Planning Policy Team will be re-locating to the Council’s Hailsham Offices on the 10th July 2012. However I can confirm that any relevant correspondence regarding the Proposed Modifications received at the Pine Grove Offices at Crowborough before 5pm on Thursday 16th August 2012 will be forwarded to the Planning Inspector.

Respondents should confine any further comments solely to the proposed modifications and this consultation does not represent an opportunity to raise other matters which have been part of the earlier representations on the Core Strategy. Any representations received will be treated as written representations by the Planning Inspector.

**Public Inspection**

Hard copies of guidance notes for making further comments on the proposed modifications have been prepared to assist this consultation process. These, together with a standard form have been designed to assist in submission of your comments and subsequent consideration of them by the Inspector. May I encourage you to read these Guidance Notes before submitting your further comments. Hard copies of the Proposed Modifications, the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment, the Guidance Notes and Form, and other related submission documents will be available for public inspection and reference at the venues shown on the schedule accompanying this letter. All documents can also be viewed on Wealden District Council's website [http://www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk).

Please telephone 01892 602007 or e-mail ldf@wealden.gov.uk if you require assistance in submitting your representation or if further information is required. If you, or somebody you know, would like the information (Guidance Notes, Forms etc) in large print, braille, audio tape/CD or in another language please let us know. For any queries regarding the examination process or timetabling please contact the Programme Officer, Lynette Benton on 07985 878623 or by e-mail lynette.benton@wealden.gov.uk.

**Data Protection Act 1998 and Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Representations cannot be treated in confidence. We are required to make copies of all representations publically available. The Council will also provide names and associated representations on its website but will not publish personal information such as telephone numbers, e-mails or private addresses. By submitting a representation on the Proposed Modifications you confirm that you agree to this and accept responsibility for your comments.

Yours faithfully,

David Phillips  
Head of Planning and Environmental Policy  
Wealden District Council

Tim Slaney  
Director of Planning  
South Downs National Park Authority