

14th December 2011

Dear Ms Benton,

Matter 1: Spatial Strategy (WCS1, WCS2, WCS3)

Main issue - Whether the overall spatial strategy is soundly based, presenting a clear spatial vision for the District in accordance with national and regional policies.

a) to e)

In 2007, when the first consultation took place, Wealden District Council failed to provide enough hard copies of the public consultation documents to residents in the Willingdon and Polegate area who had requested hard copies.

Online submissions were difficult for a majority of residents. i.e. Mr Rumsey, a local resident in Polegate had complained to WDC stating that he had difficulty with the online submissions despite being an experience IT user. Wealden District Council first stated that they would accept responses from local residents as long as they specifically referred to the consultation documents, the Council later chose to ignore the submissions from Polegate and Willingdon residents.

SD4 in Willingdon and Polegate area is already short of open spaces, sports and recreational space which below the national standard. Planning Policy Guide 17.10 states that 'existing recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken.

In the Wealden District Local Development Framework Core Strategy Submission Document at page 43 paragraph 6.22

6.22 Both Polegate and Willingdon have a high proportion of elderly residents and because of their location and the limited range of facilities available locally, the areas rely heavily on Eastbourne for their employment and shopping requirements. A new GP surgery and medical centre has recently been granted planning consent in Willingdon. Average incomes in Polegate are substantially below the rest of the District, and the area also has the lowest average house prices.

In April 2011, WDC was aware that the new GP surgery and medical centre would not be built due to funding issues. Despite this, the council failed to inform the

general public and continued to mislead local residents by stating that the new surgery would meet the needs of residents within the strategy.

In addition, the Core Strategy Submission Document in page 43 6.22 has No Sound Plan to improve the needs of facilities.

Eastbourne and Hailsham Triangle Economic Blueprint

The project was funded by ESCC, WDC and Eastbourne Borough Council, there was little mention of this within the LDF Core Strategy planning processes and public consultation carried out by Wealden District Council as recommended by the report (as appendix Eastbourne Hailsham page 4).

Extracted from report 2009

“The Eastbourne-Hailsham Triangle has been identified within the South East Plan as an area where the focus is on economic and social regeneration. The area has great potential to provide employment space and associated housing in sustainable and strategically accessible locations along the A22 corridor”.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Shing Councillor of East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council and Polegate Town Council

18 Coppice Avenue
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN20 9PN