

West Sussex County Council

Our Ref: SDNP/21/02633/ADJAUT
Contact Officer: Richard Ferguson
Tel. No.: 01730 819268

29th June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Neighbouring Authority Consultation

Applicant Name: West Sussex County Council
Proposal: Adjoining Authority Consultation - WSCC/052/20 - Construction of a single carriageway with shared cycleway / footway, roundabouts, road markings, traffic signals, bus stops, provision of hard and soft landscaping, construction of a substation building, installation of a noise barrier, and other associated works

Address: Land to The North of Eastergate and North-west of Barnham, , PO22 0DF,

Thank you for your correspondence received 6 May 2021, consulting us as a neighbouring authority on the above noted development proposals.

Although the application site is located outside of the National Park, the Council has a statutory duty to consider the Purposes of the National Park when making its determination. The statutory purposes and duty of the National Park are:

- **Purpose 1:** To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- **Purpose 2:** To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
- **Duty:** To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

The National Park's comments on the development are as follows:

The SDNPA previously commented on the proposals on the 18th December 2020. The SDNPA wishes these comments below to be treated as a 'neutral' response to the proposals.

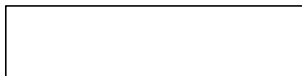
Upon review of the latest information including updates to the Environmental Statement, it is acknowledged that the two areas of concern raised have to a degree been considered. These are (1) the extent of lighting along the new road has been reduced and (2) the proposals incorporate more structural landscaping and enhanced biodiversity net gain.

The proposals are unlikely to visually effect the setting of the National Park based on the information provided in the Environmental Statement. In regard to the lighting scheme, careful consideration needs to be given to not only the quantity but also the design of new lighting so as to minimise upward light spill, so as to conserve the National Park's special quality of dark night skies which is a recognised special quality. Given the duty upon public bodies to consider National Park purposes in decision making, dark night skies is a material consideration in regard to impacts upon the setting of the National Park. In the event planning permission is granted, it is recommended that the lighting scheme is subject to a condition requiring further details on its design with the aim to reduce upward light spill.

Regarding biodiversity net gain, it is encouraged that this is explored further to determine whether the minimum 10% achieved could be increased further. DEFRA's metric tool could be further utilised to determine how this may be achieved. Consideration of how new green infrastructure could link with existing vegetation north of the site to enhance any potential wildlife corridors to/from the National Park is recommended. It is also recommended that the proposed green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain measures are secured beyond any planning conditions in a S106 Agreement. For example, the development could be the subject of obligations regarding a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.

We trust the above comments are of assistance.

Yours faithfully

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the Director of Planning.

TIM SLANEY

Director of Planning

South Downs National Park Authority

Contact Officer

Richard Ferguson

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