

David J Siggs  
Parish Clerk to Birdham Parish Council  
28 Langdale Avenue  
Chichester  
W Sussex  
PO19 8JQ

If calling please ask for: Andrew Frost  
01243 534892  
afrost@chichester.gov.uk

Our ref:

Your ref:

6<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear Mr Siggs

## **Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Opinion Screening Determination under Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004**

This letter addresses whether an environmental assessment of the Birdham Neighbourhood Plan is required and as such whether it meets one of the basic conditions that a neighbourhood plan must meet in order to proceed to referendum: that it does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

On the basis of the contents of the neighbourhood plan that was the subject of a pre-submission consultation and subsequent consultation with the relevant statutory agencies in accordance with Regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the following determination can be made.

The screening determination is that **an environmental assessment of the Birdham Neighbourhood Plan is not required** due there being no adverse comments from the Statutory Bodies and for the reasons set out in the Criteria and response of screening which are attached as part of this letter.

As such it is the opinion of Chichester District Council that the Birdham Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the provisions of the European Directive 2001/42/EC as incorporated into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

This decision has been based on the information provided. If the contents of the Plan are revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (e.g. any additional nature conservation or other environmental designations), then the comments contained in this decision would need to be reconsidered in order to take account of the changes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Frost'.

Andrew Frost  
Head of Planning Services

**Screening Report for the Birdham Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Criteria and response of screening**

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Relevance in context of this screening report
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes</b>	
<p>(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;</p>	<p>The Birdham Neighbourhood Plan (NP) would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such will establish the development management framework for Birdham village and surrounding environs.</p> <p>The NP is prepared for town and country planning and land use and sets out a framework for future development in Birdham parish. The nature of the NP includes housing, open space, infrastructure and employment.</p>
<p>(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</p>	<p>The NP is the lowest tier in the planning hierarchy and must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategic policies of the development plan and European Directives.</p>
<p>(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The NP does not allocate sites for development other than indicate those that already have planning permission.</p> <p>Policy 4 states that development must maintain the local character of the landscape and protect open views along public rights of way, Chichester Harbour and other important open spaces.</p> <p>Policy 10 requires new development to consider and protect the existing cycle and pedestrian network.</p> <p>Policy 11 ensures that all new development on the edge or removed from the main amenities of the village should provide safe cycle and pedestrian access.</p>

	Supporting text for Policy 16 requires developers to use Building for Life 12 <sup>1</sup> and demonstrate the quality of the proposals through a full and thorough assessment.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	There are no environmental problems relevant to this plan.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	This NP has no relevance to the implementation of Community legislation.  The NP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Birdham NP area.
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected,</b>	
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The impact of the proposals for development in the Birdham NP is not anticipated to produce any significant effects on Air Quality, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Landscape, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Population, Health, Soils, Climate Change and Water in the Birdham Parish.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The Proposals are in keeping with the aspirations of the Chichester Local Plan. No cumulative effects are expected as a result.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The majority of the effects within Birdham Parish will be localised, however due to the nationally important natural and historic assets, effects on these features may occur beyond the area of the Parish.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	Birdham does not currently have any AQMAs but there are three in Chichester City. The NP may increase traffic levels but not to an extent that is anticipated to cause significant effects on human health.

<sup>1</sup> [Building For Life 12](#)

<p>(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);</p>	<p>Birdham is the largest settlement in the Parish. It is linked by the A286 which acts as a commuter route to Chichester City and the wider environs via the A27. Due to minimal employment opportunities within Birdham Parish, residents largely out commute. The indirect spatial extent of the plan may extend beyond the immediate area of the plan but are not anticipated to cause significant effects.</p>
<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:  (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;  (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or  (iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>(i) Approximately half of the land area of Birdham Parish is located within the Chichester Harbour AONB, however this environment is unlikely to be harmed by adoption of the NP and proposed development.</p> <p>(ii) Policies 19, 20 and 21 seek to ensure environmental quality for the water environment is protected.</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>Approximately half of the land area of Birdham Parish is located within the Chichester Harbour AONB. There are no proposals in the Birdham NP to allocate land for development in the AONB. No land is allocated as greenbelt and small-scale developments are unlikely to disrupt the integrity of the landscape value in this rural area.</p>