

Community Planning Team  
Spatial Planning  
Dorset Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park,  
Dorchester,  
DT1 1XJ

**Our ref:** WX/2020/134061/OR-03/PO1-L01

**Date:** 12 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting us on the Draft Yetminster & Ryme Intrinsic Neighbourhood Plan. We aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment.

A key principle of the planning system is to promote sustainable development. Sustainable development meets our needs for housing, employment and recreation while protecting the environment. It ensures that the right development, is built in the right place at the right time. To assist in the preparation of any document towards achieving sustainable development we have identified the key environmental issues within our remit that are relevant to this area and provide guidance on any actions you need to undertake. We also provide hyperlinks to where you can obtain further information and advice to help support your neighbourhood plan.

### **Flood risk**

Your plan includes areas which are located in flood zone 2 and 3. We note however no growth is proposed in areas at risk of increased fluvial or tidal flood risk. The plan will however need to consider the impact associated with other forms of flooding such as surface and groundwater.

Where applicable, it is important that your Plan considers whether flood risk issues arising from any source associated with any proposed development/allocations can be safely managed to ensure development can come forward. Without this understanding your Plan is unlikely to comply with the NPPF.

The Lead Local Flood Authority will be able to advise if there are areas at risk from surface water flood risk (including groundwater and sewerage flood risk) in your neighbourhood plan area. The Surface Water Management Plan will contain recommendations and actions about how areas at risk of surface water flooding can be managed. This may be useful when developing policies or guidance.

### **Main River - water quality**

The River Wiggle [GB108052015540] runs through the neighbourhood plan area. This watercourse is classified within the South West River Basin Management Plan as

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having poor status. The reasons it is failing to achieve good ecological status are diffuse source pollution from waste treatment and disposal, agriculture and rural land management and point source pollution from water industry. Any development within or adjacent to this watercourse should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the South West River Basin Management Plan. Further information on the current status of this watercourse can be found on [Catchment Data Explorer](#).

### **Waste water infrastructure**

As your plan promotes growth through site allocations we recommend early consultation with Wessex Water to determine whether there is (or will be prior to occupation) sufficient infrastructure capacity existing for the connection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of quantity and quality of water associated with any proposed development within environmental limits of the receiving watercourse. This may impact on the housing figures and the phasing of development. We are encouraged by the inclusion of Policy CC5: Drainage and the plan states improvements to the foul drainage and treatment network were completed in 2020.

Please note that if there is not sufficient capacity in the infrastructure within areas currently serviced by a public mains sewer then we must be consulted again with alternative methods of disposal.

### **General opportunities (Informative advice)**

Drawing up a neighbourhood plan is an opportunity to think about improving a local environment. General opportunities for neighbourhood planning include:

- New green spaces or improvements to public space through new development. This could include linking open spaces to make green corridors for people and wildlife, planting trees, or making improvements water quality and to local waterways.
- Recognising the value of certain environmental features within a plan to help bring forward environmental projects without development to help secure wider funding.
- Helping a community to manage the risk of flooding by providing landscaping to manage and store water, and by promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- It could also help to encourage energy and water efficiency measures for new builds. These measures will reduce the cost of construction for developers and help to reduce utility bills for those using the building. This will also help addressing the issue of unsustainable water consumption.

We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. For your information, together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/consider-environment-neighbourhood-plans/>

If you have any queries regarding our response please get in touch at [swx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:swx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Matthew Pearce**  
**Planning Advisor**

Email – [REDACTED]

Mr. Nick Cardnell  
Dorset County Council  
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County Hall Colliton Park  
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Dear Mr. Cardnell

The Environment Agency has recently been consulted by the Local Authority regarding the above development proposal. Please find enclosed a copy of our comments for your information.

This response represents our advice as a statutory consultee on environmental issues associated with the proposed development. The reply should not be confused with the Council's decision notice, which will be issued by the Local Authority following determination of the application. Please contact the Local Authority if you wish to discuss the final decision to be made on this application.

If you have any queries about the Agency's response, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Matthew Pearce**  
**Planning Advisor**

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