

Fiona Ajram

From: Planning Policy
Sent: 21 December 2020 09:05
To: Joanne Langrish-Merritt
Subject: FW: Wareham Neighbourhood Plan - Highways England comments

From: Gallacher, Gaynor [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 December 2020 09:02
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Wareham Neighbourhood Plan - Highways England comments

Dear Planning Policy team

Thank you for providing Highways England with the opportunity to comment on the revised submission version of the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan. Highways England is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network (SRN) which in this case comprises the A35 to the west of Bere Regis and the A31 between Bere Regis and Ringwood, which pass to the north of the plan area.

We have noted the changes that have been made to the version previously consulted on in 2018 and subsequently withdrawn from examination. We are satisfied that these changes do not alter our earlier comments. The plan identifies sites to deliver housing growth of around 300 dwellings over the plan period 2019-2034, reflecting the level of growth identified within the Purbeck Local Plan, but delivery now expected to be met wholly from sites within the existing settlement boundary. The existing Sandford Industrial Estate will continue to be safeguarded for employment uses. We are therefore satisfied that the plan's proposed policies are unlikely to result in levels of development that will significantly impact upon the SRN, and for which transport modelling was undertaken by Purbeck District Council in support of their Local Plan. However, we welcome the inclusion within Chapter 3 Infrastructure that large scale development will be expected to be supported by an appropriate transport assessment, in line with the requirements of DfT Circular 02/2013 The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development.

In more general terms, we welcome policies which aim to safeguard the viability of town centre retail and local facilities, and that will improve of pedestrian, cycle and train links, as these will increase the sustainability of the community, reducing the need for private car trips and encouraging the use of non-car modes.

These comments do not prejudice any future responses Highways England may make on site specific applications as they come forward through the planning process, which will be considered by us on their merits under the prevailing policy at the time.

Regards
Gaynor

Gaynor Gallacher
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