Spatial Planning, Dorset Council, Our ref: WX/2020/134061/OR-02/PO1-L01

County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset,

DT1 1XJ

neighbourhoodplanning@dorsetc Date: 10 August 2021

ouncil.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Charmouth Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for consulting us on the above Charmouth Neighborhood Plan and my apologies for the delay providing our response. I hope our comments below can still be considered and incorporated into the plan. We have identified environmental constraints within your plan area however as no growth is proposed, we have no site specific comments to make at this stage. Should the aspiration of the plan change, please consult us so that we can provide appropriate comments.

## **General Advice**

Drawing up a neighbourhood plan is a fantastic opportunity to build community resilience to climate change and make the local natural environment better. Opportunities include:

- New green spaces and improvements to public space through new development.
   This could include planting trees, creating rainwater gardens or enhancing local waterways for water quality and biodiversity.
- Recognising the value of certain environmental features within a plan area, e.g. a floodplain, wetland habitat or rivers. Identify these features and outline how you intend to protect them and improve them.
- Helping a community to manage and adapt to the risk of flooding and climate change by incorporating natural features and green space to manage and store water, and supporting the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- Promoting 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 future occupiers. This will also help reduce unsustainable water
  consumption and carbon emissions.

We also recommend your Plan takes account of relevant Local Planning Authority's policies, plans and strategies including Local Planning Authority's Strategic Flood Risk

**Environment Agency** 

Rivers House (Sunrise Business Park) Higher Shaftesbury Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8ST.

Assessment, flood risk strategies (<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-current-schemes-and-strategies">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-current-schemes-and-strategies</a>), and the South West River Basin Management Plan (<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-west-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-west-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan</a>) as appropriate.

## Flood Risk

We note the significant weight the plan has given to the threat posed from sea level rise and coastal erosion. We support the aims of Policy CC2: Coastal Change and Flooding. Where areas of your Neighbourhood Plan area are given protection by a flood defence/alleviation scheme, the plan should identify the level of protection provided (including any climate change allowance) and what flood defences are required to protect existing properties. If it is determined that new development should be behind a flood defence financial contributions may be sought to maintain or improve the existing structures.

If you have any queries regarding our	response please get in touch at
Yours sincerely,	
Matthew Pearce Planning Advisor	
Email –	

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