



From: Gaynor Gallacher <[redacted]>
Sent: 20 March 2026 12:28
To: NeighbourhoodPlanning
Subject: Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan - new legal compliance consultation - National Highways comments

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Dear Neighbourhood Planning team

Thank you for providing National Highways with a further opportunity to comment, following the Inspectors letter with regards new requirements for Neighbourhood Plans set out within the Levelling Up and Regeneraiton Act 2023.

Having read the Inspectors letter, National Highways is satisfied that it has no further comments to add to those we have previously made in respect of the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan.

Kind regards
Gaynor

Gaynor Gallacher

South West Operations – Assistant Spatial Planner (Highways Development Management)
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From: Philip Reese
Sent: 19 March 2026 14:01
To: NeighbourhoodPlanning
Subject: Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan - new legal compliance consultation

Dear Sir / Madan,

Thank you for responding to the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan – First Review - regulation 16 consultation. The modified plan is currently at examination. You can read the representations

received during the regulation 16 consultation and find updates regarding the examination on our web page [Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031 - Dorset Council](#)

It has recently come to light that new legal requirements regarding neighbourhood plans are coming into force on 25 March 2026. The changes are set out in [Sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#). In summary, the new requirements in Section 98 are:

- As far as the qualifying body considers appropriate, does the plan contribute to the **mitigation of and adaptation to climate change?**
- As far as the qualifying body considers appropriate, does the plan take account of the [local nature recovery strategy](#) that relates to the area?

Section 99 includes a new ‘basic condition’, which requires that the plan:

- Should not **reduce the amount of housing development** taking place in the area?

As these changes come into force before the examination is complete, the examiner must take these new requirements into account. To assist the examination, he has asked us to invite representations from interested parties on whether the modified neighbourhood plan meets these new requirements. You are therefore invited to do so if you so wish. It is stressed that there is no need to repeat representations that have already been made in relation to any other matters. It is also not an opportunity to raise new matters that do not relate to these legal points.

The examiner has suggested two weeks for this consultation. As the consultation starts on Friday 20 March, we are extending the deadline to **5pm on Tuesday 7 April** to allow for the bank holidays. If you would like to respond but cannot meet this deadline, please let us know at the earliest opportunity.

We recommend reading the [examiner’s letter dated 16 March](#) before responding to this consultation. Responses to the consultation should be sent to NeighbourhoodPlanning@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact me in the first instance.

Kind regards,

Philip Reese
Senior Planning Policy Officer
Place
Dorset Council


dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



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