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Steve Freek
Highways England (Area 7)

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Direct Line: [Redacted]

4 May 2020

Dear Derek,

Consultation on the Submission Version of the Belper Neighbourhood Plan

Highways England welcomes the opportunity to comment on the submission version of the Belper Neighbourhood Plan which covers the period 2019 to 2035 and has been produced for public consultation. We note that the document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to the Belper Neighbourhood Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the operation of the A38 which routes through the plan area.

We understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with relevant national and Borough-wide planning policies. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan for Belper is required to be in conformity with the current Amber Valley Local Plan, and this is acknowledged within the document.

We reviewed the previous version of the Neighbourhood Plan in November 2019, and from review of the updated version, there is no material change regarding potential impacts on the SRN and as such our previous comments remain unchanged.

We understand that a total allocation of 1,360 new dwellings have been assigned to Belper Parish for the period of 2011-2028, 418 of which have been already completed, and a further 275 committed. As such, there remains an allocation of 667 dwellings to be brought forward in the period up to 2028.





Considering the close proximity of Belper to the A38, land being promoted for development should be supported by a Transport Assessment through the development management process. This should be carried out in line with the DfT Circular 02/2013, investigating the potential traffic impacts and where necessary mitigation identified, in order to safeguard the operation of the SRN. We would welcome any pre-application discussion regarding these developments to support progress, and potentially avoid any abortive work.

We have no further comments to make at this stage and trust that the above is useful in the progression of the Belper Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Steve Freek
Midlands Operations Directorate

[Redacted contact information]