

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF HATFIELD PEVEREL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: MARY O'ROURKE BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI

Alan Massow  
Braintree District Council

Examination Ref: 04/MOR/HPNP

Via email: [alan.massow@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:alan.massow@braintree.gov.uk)

cc: Lisa Miller  
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Diane Wallace  
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10 April 2018

Dear Mr Massow

### Examination of the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015 -2033

I write in response to your email of 6 April 2018 enquiring whether it would be appropriate to make additional changes to the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Development Plan (NP) (with the consent of the parish council), to resolve some of the comments received during the previous regulation 16 consultation.

The changes to the policies shown in the Strategic Environmental Assessment were in specific response to the Habitats Regulation Assessment, which was carried out in the light of Natural England's response to the consultation on the Regulation 16 NP. Natural England suggested that without amendment, the Plan was not compatible with EU obligations and could not therefore comply with the Basic Conditions. I am satisfied that, subject to consultation, it is reasonable, transparent and fair to accept those amendments for consideration at the examination.

As to other additional changes to resolve some of the comments made at the Regulation 16 stage, it seems to me that this would be best addressed by the Parish Council/District Council proposing these changes for consideration as part of the examination in the form of a stand-alone supplementary document (in a similar way as a Local Planning Authority may propose at examination, modifications to a Local Plan). This will enable me to assess the proposed changes in terms of whether or not I accept them as drafted, propose alternative wording or propose deletion.

It follows that as there is going to be another round of consultation in any event, the proposed additional changes in the suggested supplementary document could also be publicised. Indeed, not to do so could potentially constrain my ability to accept them. However, it must be made absolutely clear what they are, who is proposing them and why.

In the interests of transparency, may I ask that the local authority and qualifying body ensure a copy of this letter and any respective responses are placed on the relevant council websites.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

*Mary O'Rourke*

Examiner