



Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan



Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan Examination

Statement by Neighbourhood Plan Qualifying Body in response to the Further Initial Comments of the Independent Examiner.

Question 15 – Local Green Spaces Designation

31 August 2018

1.0 Introduction

‘Can the qualifying body confirm that all the landowners whose land is designated as Local Green Space were contacted before the site’s designation as set out in Planning Practice Guidance on Local Green Space. Can I be shown copy of that correspondence?’

- 1.1 Storrington & Sullington Parish Council, Washington Parish Council and Horsham District Council have had the opportunity to meet and discuss this response. In light of the meeting, a response has been prepared by the Qualifying Body.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As the Examiner will be aware, the sites proposed as Local Green Spaces were suggested by members of the public and by the NP focus groups. These suggestions were then assessed by the Steering Group against the criteria in the NPPF. Further assessments were also undertaken by the SDNPA (See Local Green Spaces Report March 2016 and Addendum November 2017) to further ascertain whether they met the criteria for inclusion in the Plan. Sites have not been proposed for inclusion unless these criteria are considered to be met.
- 2.2 Whilst there was no direct contact with landowners regarding the designation of sites, the SSWNP was subjected to 4 public consultations which were widely promoted and publicised (Feb 2015, May 2015, July 2016, July 2017). The process undertaken is documented in more detail in the Consultation Statement. Action in rural Sussex was initially commissioned to advise the NP Steering Group on the process to produce the NP (up until the point at which it was originally submitted for Independent Examination) and advise on best practice on promoting Local Green Spaces through the plan-making process including an extensive consultation programme which has been carried out by the Parishes.
- 2.3 Only three of the sites on the current list of proposed Local Green Spaces are privately owned. Each of these landowners is aware of this potential designation as they have all objected to the inclusion of their site and have therefore been fully engaged in the plan preparation process. Two of these sites have been put forward for potential development and have been robustly assessed under the site assessment criteria and were not considered appropriate for allocation. Each site has been assessed as being unsuitable and unachievable. The results of this assessment are set out in the Site Assessment Report.

- 2.4 The Milford Grange Country park is open to the public and residents of the adjoining housing development pay an annual maintenance cost. The remainder of the sites are owned by the County, District or Parish Councils or by the National Trust, all of whom have been engaged in the consultation process.
- 2.5 The SSWNP Steering Group considered the allocation of Local Green Spaces only after resolutions had been made regarding housing need and the identification of sites to meet this need.