

**Ref: 10/0027 Save Old Bedhampton Association.**

**Havant Borough Core Strategy: Inspector's Questions.**

Q.1. Does the CS present a clear spatial vision for the Borough, recognising its distinct qualities?

{Please note: I believe this questions overlaps with the session on conservation, landscape and countryside and so I have responded here.}

A.1. No, it fails to respond to and reflect the evidence base established by the background paper "Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment. February 2007" (HBTLSCA). The spatial vision needs greater sensitivity to recognised and protect the environment of and the fragile nature of its historic places.

Q. 23. Will policy (in) the CS be effective in protecting the Borough's environmental assets?

A. 23. No, Section 7 "Caring for our Borough" contains inconsistencies that will enable the boundary of the urban area to be changed without clear guidance on how protected areas will be excluded and how any changes in less protected areas will be assessed.

Q. 24. Should there be a separate policy to protect the AONB? Are local designations still relevant and useful e.g. Gaps?

A. 24. A separate policy simply to recognise AONBs would make little difference, given their national status, unless it was to propose an absolute ban on any forms of development in such areas apart from, say, those in the national interest or required for health and safety reasons e.g. sea defences. What is needed is to make clear the overall assessments that will be required for individual urban extensions to be acceptable e.g. no off site unacceptable environmental impacts. A similar set of criteria could be used for local designations in defined areas such as 'Coastal Zone'. So, using such designations could be a useful starting point for any future assessment of development proposals in such areas.