



Cllr Michael Wilson, Leader Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX

25 April 2019

Dear Cllr Wilson

Re. Submission of the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan

I am very pleased to submit to you and Havant Borough Council the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan.

As required by the neighbourhood planning regulations, our submission package of material comprises the following documents:

- The **Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan**, now revised and updated following the (Reg. 14) pre-submission consultation period;
- The **Consultation Statement**, setting out all responses received and details of how and why the plan has been revised and updated as a result;
- The **Basic Conditions Statement**, setting out how the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions as required by the regulations;
- We also include a statement from HBC confirming that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and associated assessment processes on the plan was not required. We understand this statement will be required by the examiner to explain the absence of a SEA report as part of our submission package.
- Two technical reports, produced by government appointed Neighbourhood Planning Consultants, Aecom, and used as part of our evidence base are also included:
 - The Emsworth Housing Needs Assessment
 - North Street Urban Design Considerations

Due to the size of these documents, apart from the Plan itself, these files have been submitted separately to your Officers in the Planning Team.



A great deal of time and effort has been required to get the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan to this important stage. We could not have done it without the generous donation of time, services and finance by many residents and businesses in the Emsworth community. We have had technical support from the government appointed neighbourhood planning consultants, Aecom, and our own advisers, FERIA Urbanism. Their work, and other PR and administrative costs have been paid for by local donations and grants from central government. Knowing how stretched HBC's finances are we have endeavoured to keep the Council's associated costs down and are grateful for the advice we have had from Havant's planning team. We are also grateful for the support we have had from members, most particularly our ward Councillors, whose assistance and encouragement has been critical.

As I am sure you are aware, the Emsworth Forum is the only Neighbourhood Forum in Havant and this is the first Neighbourhood Plan to be developed in the planning authority area. Neighbourhood Planning was introduced in the 2011 Localism Act and was designed to give local communities more of a say in how their area develops and to reduce the often adversarial relationship between Planning Authorities and their local communities when fulfilling their planning duties. We knew that Havant would need to meet its housing targets set by government and that Emsworth would be an attractive opportunity for developers and landowners. We share the Council's ambition to ensure sustainable development and protect the character of Emsworth. Whilst there have been and will continue to be areas of difference in the perspectives of the Council and the Emsworth community, we believe that the work we have done together demonstrates the value that neighbourhood planning can bring to both Havant Council and, in our case, Emsworth. For example, we are pleased that as a result of our work:

- HBC benefitted from central government funding towards the Southleigh Development Masterplanning exercise
- HBC has received more than £250,000 from the Community Housing Fund.
- The Emsworth Community Land Trust has been established and is already working with HBC on ways to attract support from government and other sources to invest in affordable housing and other amenities in Emsworth.
- We have been able to agree with the Emsworth Surgery and local NHS the plans to transfer the Surgery to the Cottage Hospital site.

You will be interested to note some of the highlights of the Neighbourhood Plan itself are

- an ambitious affordable homes policy target of 40%, as recommended by the Emsworth Housing Needs Assessment prepared for us by Aecom, so that there will be more affordable housing for local young people

- The designation of a Community and Public Service Hub in the town centre including protection of key sites such as the Emsworth Victoria Hospital for health or community use. We were pleased that our campaigns regarding this important site have also been also reflected in the Council's emerging Local Plan
- The incorporation into the Plan of the Emsworth Design Statement creating more robust design policies for the town that will protect its special character
- Protection of additional Emsworth Green Spaces including the Horses Field and the Ems Valley corridor that are so valued by local people
- Innovative proposals to improve traffic flow and conditions for pedestrians and cyclists along the A259 and high street and town centre
- Numerous projects that will enhance and improve Emsworth for residents, businesses and visitors alike

We hope you and your colleagues will share with us the enormous pride we feel at having produced this Plan - which is a fine example of community and local government working together. We look forward to the plan proceeding to the next stages in the process, including the six-week submission consultation (Reg. 16), the independent examination and then the referendum.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Elsy, Chair

Cc

Cllr Leah Turner, Cabinet Lead for Planning, Communities & Housing
Cllr Lulu Bowerman and Cllr Richard Kennett
Jacqueline Boulter