Chief Executive and Director of Environment: John Wood



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Emailed to planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk

Date : 22 February 2016

Dear Isabelle Haddow,

Re: Sele Ward Neighbourhood Plan Area Consultation

I am writing in response to the consultation regarding Hertford Town Council's application for the designation of the Sele Ward as a Neighbourhood Plan Area to provide comments in relation to minerals and waste planning matters.

In terms of minerals matters, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area sits entirely within the Sand and Gravel belt, as identified in the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2007). As such, the county council, as Minerals Planning Authority, would raise concerns for any unnecessary sterilisation of minerals from non-mineral development.

A small section of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area, alongside Welwyn Road, forms part of the northern edge of Panshanger Quarry which is identified by Policy 3 of the existing Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan as a site which should be used to meet the county's need for land-won aggregate. This remains an active extraction site and has permission to extract sand and gravel until 31 December 2030 and restore the land with inert landfill.

The north of the proposed Area has two historical extraction sites. Bramfield Road received permission for mineral extraction in 1948 and again in 1963 and was subsequently used for landfill until 1989. Waterford Pit received permission for mineral extraction in 1950 and 1977 and was also used for landfill, with the last input being 1986. Both sites are now inactive and fully restored though a second phase of restoration is being undertaken on part of the site adjacent to Tattle Hill just outside of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Further details of applications and historic landfill data can be provided during the Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

With regards to waste matters, the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area does not contain any of the county council's Allocated Waste Sites, as shown in the Waste Site Allocations document (adopted June 2014) and does not contain any safeguarded waste operations.

When areas for development are identified during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan the county council should be consulted so that further detailed comments can be provided in relation to minerals.

Although Neighbourhood Plans cannot include policies that cover minerals or waste development, it should be noted that when the Parish Council develops its vision and objectives for shaping development and growth, minerals and waste matters will need to be taken into account as Minerals and Waste Local Plans form part of the Development Plan. This particular proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a history of operations relating to the county council responsibilities and therefore the county council would like to be consulted at future stages in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely

Davíd Hodbod

David Hodbod Planning Officer - Minerals and Waste Policy