



Hampshire County Council

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Date

13 September 2012

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Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Colden Common Village Design Statement

Thank you for affording Hampshire County Council the opportunity of commenting on this draft Village Design Statement. The County Council has number of comments to make as set out below.

Firstly from the perspective of our Countryside service, the County Council is concerned at the lack of any reference to rights of way or other forms of access to the countryside within this VDS. The **Countryside Access Plan (CAP) for the South Downs (Hampshire)** - the area in which Colden Common is located - identifies the following issues affecting enjoyment of the countryside in this part of Hampshire:

- High reliance on cars and availability of car parking to access the countryside in the South Downs area
- Limited supply of easily accessible, inviting routes
- Countryside access users are forced to use or cross busy roads to link up off-road access routes
- A need for more circular recreational routes
- A need for better information about countryside access routes.

This document is the **Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)** for the county of Hampshire, which sets out a framework by which HCC and its partners can coordinate work to improve rights of way and other forms of public access and meet the Government's aim of better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.

*Director of Economy, Transport and Environment
Stuart Jarvis BSc DipTP FCIHT MRTPI*

In this context we would recommend the inclusion of an additional policy which expresses the requirement that new development within the parish should preserve and where possible enhance access to countryside, in line with the priorities outlined in the Countryside Access Plan (CAP) for Hampshire.

Secondly, in its capacity as local Highway Authority the County Council would be concerned about any proposed development individually or cumulatively that would result in demonstrable harm being caused to its highway network. Consequently, the VDS should require that any proposed development would need to be supported by a transport assessment or transport statement that demonstrates the likely impact of the development's traffic on the local highway network along with any mitigation measures that may be required and a commitment that these will be funded in their entirety by the developer. The transport assessment or statement would need to take into account relevant proposed development within Winchester District Council's and Eastleigh Borough Council's areas. The Highway Authority would be responsible for identifying the scope of the transport assessments or transport statements.

This matter could helpfully be addressed in either sections 4 or 5 of the VDS.

Finally, from an energy and climate change perspective the County Council would like to see included in the VDS some recognition of issues related to energy efficiency and climate change. The context for this is set not only in National Planning Policy but also local policies in the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy. In particular policies:

CP11 – Sustainable low & zero carbon built development

CP12 – Renewable and Decentralised Energy

CP13 – High Quality Design and

CP17 – Flooding, Flood Risk and the Water Environment

The VDS should demonstrate how it contributes towards adaptation to, and mitigation of, the impacts of climate change, sustainability, renewable energy and energy security and how district / community energy schemes might meet the village's energy needs in the future.

In the section on “Infrastructure” on page 19 the County Council, in its role as a Lead Local Flood Authority, would like to see a reference to principles of sustainable drainage and the requirement included that any future development in the village should be served by Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) rather than traditional piped drainage solutions wherever this is technically feasible.

These changes should also then be captured in the “Summary of Planning Guidance” on pages 21-22 of the VDS.

I trust that these matters will be taken on board and I look forward to receiving the revised version of this document in due course.

Yours faithfully

Pete Errington
Strategic Planning Manager