

From: Valerie Dobson vdobson@chichester.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan

Date: 14 December 2016 at 16:27

To: David Leah leahdr@btopenworld.com

Cc: Mike Allgrove mailgrove@chichester.gov.uk, Maureen Chaffe processmatters2@gmail.com, Christopher Tod candm@thetods.co.uk

CD

Dear David,

Thank you for your email raising queries concerning SEA.

You cannot avoid undertaking the SEA process as the screening process determined that SEA needs to be done. The first stage of the process is for you/the consultants you employ to draft a scoping report which is then sent to the various statutory consultees (Historic England, Environment Agency, Natural England) for their comments. At that stage you may also choose to send it to SDNPA for their comments but they are not a statutory consultee. Following consultation it is the production of the final scoping report that will determine the scope of the work, including considering potential alternative sites.

The scoping report can be fairly short and needs to simply set out what you are doing and the areas you will be looking at, again this is in the screening determination letter you have. As you say the main trigger is the historic environment and this needs to be set out along with the other areas that are not considered to be an issue (again as in the determination letter) in the report and consulted on.

Once you have the comments back from the various consultees then you/your employed consultants will be able to move forward with the assessment work.

At this stage the only way that an SEA can be avoided would be, for example, by removing the site at the crossroads and road from the plan and then requesting a further determination from CDC. We would again need to consult the various statutory bodies on any PC agreed revised plan and then re-issue a further determination based on their responses.

I hope this clarifies the position for you,

Valerie Dobson

Neighbourhood Planning Officer

Planning Policy

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From: David Leah [<mailto:leahdr@btopenworld.com>]

Sent: 08 December 2016 08:53

To: Mike Allgrove; Valerie Dobson

Cc: Maureen Chaffe; 'Christopher Tod'

Subject: Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan

Since our last meeting, we have managed to secure some limited funding which should allow us to engage a consultant to complete an SEA for us.

Before we do however, I would appreciate if you could clarify the scope of the work required so that we do not over provide and waste funds.

It appears that the only consultation responses that triggers the need for an SEA

is that from Historic England and SDNPA. Historic England's letter to you dated 11 August 2016 states that "Further detailed assessment [is] to be undertaken to determine the likely degree and significance of any impact on the special interest of these two conservation areas that would arise from the development of this proposed site." And that "If it is determined that the development of this site would be unlikely to affect the special interest of the conservation areas or significant non-scheduled archaeological remains, or that if it did, the site was removed from the Plan or adequate safeguards were incorporated within the allocation policy, we would be likely to consider that the Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to have any significant effects on the historic environment, and that an SEA was not required."

On this evidence, our consultant would consider that we do not at this stage need to produce a full SEA but a detailed assessment of the potential impacts on the conservation areas and archaeology. This would analyse likely impacts and propose any measures that could be incorporated to mitigate these.

If this is done, then it seems that a full SEA can be avoided. However, Historic England also advise that "Even if a formal SEA is not eventually believed to be necessary, we would nevertheless suggest that the Plan is subject to a form of sustainability appraisal to assess the potential site allocation against a set of agreed criteria and to assess and monitor the Plan's policies and proposals against a set of agreed objectives."

In order to help clarify the scope of work required, would you be let us know whether an SEA can be avoided if we address Historic England's issue with regards to a historic environment impact assessment? If this can be avoided, would you also let us know whether any additional Sustainability Appraisal would be needed?

Furthermore point 5 of your email of 31 August 2016 gave an action to Chris Patterson of SDNPA about providing details of SEA scoping work from their perspective. Have you received any response from him? If not, would you please contact him again so that we can incorporate this into our brief to our consultant.

Clearly some time another 3 months has been lost in obtaining these additional funds and so we are now anxious to proceed as quickly as possible. Your speedy response would therefore be appreciated.

many thanks

David Leah
Chair of Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Team
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