

By email to neighbourhoodplanning@maidstone.gov.uk

Strategic Planning,
Maidstone Borough Council,
Maidstone House,
King Street,
Maidstone,
ME15 6JQ

27th March 2020

Dear Sir,

REPRESENTATION ON LENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, REGULATION 16.

The Parish Council is aware of the consultation response submitted on behalf of Maidstone Borough Council and dated 11th March 2020.

We are grateful for the detailed level of scrutiny that is evident within the consultation response and that there is general support for the Plan subject to the resolution of matters identified in the response. We have studied these matters and we conclude that many of the points are well made and we anticipate that it will be possible to adjust the Plan accordingly and quickly. Pages 3 – 15 of the response make a number of suggested textual changes and observations none of which raise any fundamental objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council does however wish to submit additional material in relation to the following five key issues which are raised in the response:

- Key Issue One: Delivery Strategy
- Key Issue Two: Publicly Accessible Open Space – Explanation of Neighbourhood Plan Provisions
- Key Issue Three: Justification for the Release of William Pitt Field for Housing Redevelopment
- Key Issue Four: Local Green Space Designation: Royton Avenue – Explanation of Local Green Space: Policy LGS1 (6)
- Key Issue Five: Countryside Protection Policy CP1 (submission plan page 20)

The Parish Council is aware of government guidance in relation to the holding of public inquiries at this very difficult time. The Parish Council would therefore hope that it would be possible to conduct the Examination on the basis of written representations, thereby avoiding any potential delay which may arise through the need to organise and hold public hearing sessions. In making this request the Parish Council does not believe that any party would be unduly disadvantaged. The Parish Council notes government guidance that the default position for neighbourhood plan examinations is that they should be conducted on the basis of written representations if at all possible.

Yours faithfully,

Paul McCreery FRTPI
On behalf of Lenham Parish Council