

02/09/22

Dear Sirs,

I have three matters of representation I wish to make in respect of the current draft Plan as below:

1. The housing proposed on the land at reference SHELAA 168 is situated on a field outside the village envelope on which the 'Save Our King's Somborne' (SOKS) group spent much time and effort rebutting a Planning Application by Gladman, I'm pleased to say successfully. It seems paradoxical that having had the full support of the village to seek to rebut the Gladman proposals that the Neighbourhood Plan committee now seek to allocate a significant part of that site. The landscape impact and other argument raised in respect of the application by Gladman remain as current now as they were in 2015. A copy of those representations made at the time are attached.
2. My second representation is one made in the early formative stages of the Plan and not infrequently when the opportunity has arisen. There is no Employment floorspace allocated in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Yet in the past there has been a bemoaning of the absence of such that risks turning King's Somborne into a "dormitory" rather than a "living village". I believe the Plan Committee are sorely wrong in not making provision for both new and preservation of Employment floorspace within the village envelope.
3. My last point is one of the Horsebridge Gap. I would question the need for the strict necessity of the Horsebridge Gap, which otherwise can accommodate housing on the inward slopes of the valley within which the village is situated. This has been such a very important consideration in the deliberation of the Gladman's application on land reference SHELAA 168. Whilst it is accepted that the bottom of that valley land touch on the flood plain, the balance of land, can be allocated for housing.

The Horsebridge Gap is itself a misnomer as there is continuity of developed land along the A3057 highway frontage with the supposed Gap comprising 'back land' well suited to development without infringing established landscape policy parameters. Indeed this is perhaps a more logical location, in landscape terms, than SHELAA 168.

I would be interested to hear the reason for its exclusion from allocation.

Yours faithfully,

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