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21 December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Updates to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the publicity version of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft (October 2021).

We provided comments in 2018 on the current Neighbourhood Plan and at that time considered that there would be no material impact upon the SRN. Our views on this updated version are as follows:

It is noted that the document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out several key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth.

In relation to the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the M1, M69 and A5 which route approximately 8 miles to the north, 7 miles to the east and 2 miles to the south of the Plan area respectively.

We understand that a Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with relevant national and Borough-wide planning policies. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Sheepy is required to be in conformity with the Hinkley and Bosworth

Borough strategic policies and this is acknowledged within the document. However, this should be updated as required through the ongoing review of the Hinkley and Bosworth Local Plan through to 2039.

Having reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan it is noted that the overall housing need within Sheepy has been taken from the strategic policies within the Hinkley and Bosworth Local Plan, with at least 20 new homes having been identified over the period 2006 to 2026, although this was subsequently increased to 32 dwellings.

Against the revised requirement of 32 dwellings, a total of 44 have been built, and a further 28, including 19 at the Horsey Rise Memorial Home, have the benefit of a planning permission. As such, it has been concluded that the housing need for the Parish has already been met.

In terms of Housing allocations, Policy S14 covers the land at Horsey Rise Memorial Home and allows the development of up to 20 dwellings.

In terms of employment land allocations, no strategic sites have been identified within Policy S18 covering the rural economy.

Due to the limited level of growth currently being proposed across the Neighbourhood Plan area, we do not expect that there will be any impacts on the operation of the SRN.

We have no further comments to provide and trust that the above is useful in the progression of the Sheepy Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Kind Regards,

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