

Councillors,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Nicky Tindall and I am a member of the Steering Group of Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society, or 'PALLS'. We have about 700 members and our aim is to protect and enhance the tranquility, rural environment and special character of the Lanes and their surrounding area. We have combined our comments on items 5 and 6 of your agenda in this single statement.

In relation to Item 5 we have spoken at your meetings in August and September 2018 and welcomed your decision to object to draft Policy SS6 of the Local Plan as set out in para 3.8 of the officer's report. We support your officer's recommendation to maintain your objection to the Local Plan Main Modifications as remaining ineffective and unsound in respect of its impact on the rural lanes and the character of the area (Recommendation 1). There appears to be a typographical error within the second line of Recommendation 1 which should perhaps read 'significant' rather than 'sufficient'.

We attended the Examination in summer 2019 to support our objections to the Local Plan. It is a matter of great disappointment to PALLS, and presumably also to yourselves that the allocation may be confirmed without a full highways assessment of the impacts by Hampshire County Council as highway authority.

However, given that appears to be the case, we are particularly concerned at the continuing requirement in Policy SS6 for a vehicular through route linking Lower Pennington Lane and Ridgeway Lane. As set out in para 3.9 of your report there is no Hampshire Highways report to justify this link road which we consider will have a seriously harmful impact on the lanes. You raised concerns about a through route in September 2018 and it is a concern that is also shared by Oakhaven Hospice who have asked for the potential for a 'rat run' through the development site to be removed by not allowing through traffic access between the two lanes.

PALLS were clearly told by the Examination inspectors that highways matters should be left for consideration at planning application stage – too late in our view. If the allocation is confirmed, details of the access and internal road layout should be a matter for the Neighbourhood Plan to consider in consultation with the local community, the Highways Authority and other stakeholders. A decision on a planning application should not be pre-judged by a policy requirement which is unjustified and not supported by any independent evidence. If it were demonstrated necessary for example to provide emergency access, this could be secured by way of a controlled link.

Please would you consider adding to your recommendation a request that all reference to a vehicular link through the site should be removed from the policy. A statement could be added in supporting text that options for vehicular access from both Lower Pennington Lane and Ridgeway Lane should be considered at planning application stage following consultation with both the Highway Authority and the New Forest National Park Authority (who are the local planning authority for the land over which access from Ridgeway Lane would run). This would also deal with your concerns under recommendation 4 regarding the provision of a northerly access onto Lower Pennington Lane.

We share and support your officer's recommendations to ensure that the provisions for Oakhaven Hospice are secured in full and are not 'watered down' by the proposed modifications.

And finally and briefly in relation to your agenda item 6 – Neighbourhood Plan, PALLS welcome the initiative to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. We would however urge councillors to consider extending the timescale set out in your report. We feel it is essential to allow time for effective and meaningful community involvement so that people can have a real input into the development of policies so they feel positively engaged in and supportive of the process. PALLS would be very willing to be part of this process and to meet to share with you our vision for the lanes of Pennington and Lymington.

Thank you.

Contact Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society on [Pennandlymlanes@gmail.com](mailto:Pennandlymlanes@gmail.com)

<https://www.pennandlymlanes.com>