

Speech for 11.04.2024

I am speaking on behalf of the Buriton Village Design Statement Group.

Our Village Design Statement has been fully adopted by the National Park Authority as a formal Supplementary Planning Document and we commend the Planning Officer's thorough report as it embraces many aspects of our Design Statement. We also endorse the conclusions for refusal.

In principle, our design statement contain findings from the Local Landscape Character Assessment and we agree with the planning officer these proposals would neither conserve nor enhance the National Park – one of its key statutory purposes.

Furthermore, our design statement contains specific guidance in protecting the historic development pattern and halting the erosion of gaps with the expansion of Petersfield. Protecting open spaces and green corridors form important and fundamental principals in our Design Statement. As the planning officer's report states, "this form of development would diminish the geographical independence of Weston, Buriton and Petersfield."

The committee will have noted the applicant makes many references to a need for hotel development **in** Petersfield citing a study undertaken about 10 years ago. Since then, circumstances have changed significantly – but this **is** Buriton, not Petersfield where two public houses, both assets of Community Value have increased their room capacities. The impact on these local businesses would be severe.

Turning to Dark Night Skies, we are extremely concerned that the scale of development and the incremental risk of Petersfield expanding southwards will threaten your Reserve and its vital core zone "pinch- point". Once this occurs the Reserve will lose its much-coveted International Status. Such incremental intrusion runs against the hard-work our community has achieved to make Buriton a Dark Skies Discovery area.

A final point, if Supplementary Planning Documents are removed from the planning system you will need to find a new way of taking account of the local distinctiveness which is a part of the special appeal of this National Park.

One Design Code for the whole area could not be sufficient.

The weight currently given to guidance about Local Design Characteristics (which has helped to win a number of Planning Appeals) must be maintained in Protected Landscapes and we suspect that, with a bit of creative thinking, you should be able to find a way to carry things forward

If the weight given to our efforts were reduced, not only would you risk losing valuable local input, but the quality of development in the National Park would be poorer too.

We trust that you will find a way of drawing upon all this local knowledge and effort as part of your Local Plan Review.

Thank you.