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| Wendy Davies  3 All Hallows Close,  Ordsall,  Retford  DN22 7UP | Your Ref:  Our Ref:  Please ask for: Mr D. Armiger  Direct Dialling: (01909) 533187  E-mail: david.armiger@bassetlaw.gov.uk    15 November 2014 |

Dear Wendy,

**Elkesley Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA Screening Statement**

I am writing in relation to the Screening Assessment for the emerging Elkesley Neighbourhood Plan.

As you will be aware, the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken on development plans and programmes that may have a significant environmental effect is outlined in European Union Directive 200142/EC. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) state that this is determined by a screening process, utilising a specified set of criteria which is outlined in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

As the responsible authority under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Bassetlaw District Council have assessed the contents of the Draft NP against criteria provided in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations and have produced a Screening Assessment.

The SEA Directive does not require the council to duplicate assessments that have already been carried out, or assessments that will be carried out, in relation to other plans and programmes in a “hierarchy” (see Article 5 (2)). In this case, the draft plan does not support or propose any higher tier policies than already set out in the Core Strategy and does not propose a higher level of development than is already included in the adopted plan.

In the case of a Sustainability Appraisal for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan the Parish will not be required to address matters already covered in the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy (e.g. Rural Service Centre) and other development plan documents. The SA/SEA process should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the NP. “It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the neighbourhood plan” (see paragraph 30 of the Planning Practice Guidance).

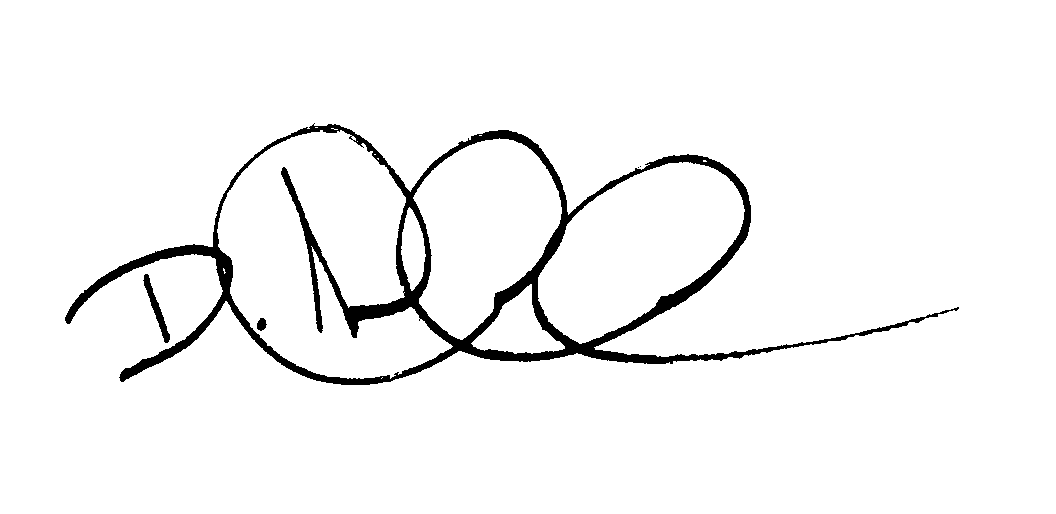
There is also no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development. A sustainability appraisal may be a useful approach for doing this and the guidance on sustainability appraisal of Local Plans should be referred to.

Bassetlaw District Council considers that the Draft Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Sustainability Appraisal as the District Council has an up to date Core Strategy with a Sustainability Appraisal that can be viewed at <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strategy/what-is-the-core-strategy.aspx>. The District Council also has an Draft Sustainability Appraisal of the Site Allocations Preferred Options Document that it deems acceptable that the Elkesley Neighbourhood Plan uses to justify the development of the Yew Tree Road site. The Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed at <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/site-allocations/preferred-options-consultation.aspx>.

The Scoping Report for the Elkesley Neighbourhood Development Plan includes an assessment of the social, environmental and economic issues and therefore the Council demes this as acceptable in scoping the potential impacts of the neighbourhood plan.

I can therefore confirm on behalf of the Council that it does not believe that the Draft Elkesley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NP) in its current form will not have any significant negative effects on the environment and we are therefore of the belief that a full environmental assessment and a Sustainability Appraisal is not necessary for the reasons detailed above.

Yours sincerely



**Mr D Armiger**

**Head of Regeneration**

