



# Northumberland County Council

Mr C Collison

cc: Thirston Parish Council

**By email only**

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Rob Naples

**Email:** [rob.naples@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:rob.naples@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Tel direct:** 07966 331548

**Date:** 15 June 2021

Dear Mr Collison

Further to your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021, please find the following comments below on behalf of Northumberland County Council and Thirston Parish Council.

## Policy 1

**The term “*minimised*” used in part e) is imprecise. Is it intended “external lighting is limited to that which is essential and includes measures to avoid light spillage beyond the application site”?**

- *The County Council and Parish Council agree that this was the intention of the text in Policy 1 (e); the suggested replacement text provided by the Independent Examiner is considered acceptable as this better covers the measures intended by the criterion within the policy.*

## Policy 2

Parts of the policy re-state national policy and the representations of the County Council and Historic England highlight variations from national policy. Paragraph 16 of the Framework states plans should “*serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant).*” The approach to residential development in the second paragraph of the policy is inconsistent with the reference to isolated homes in the third paragraph of the policy. I invite comment on a possible modification to replace the text after “will be limited to” with “proposals that are in accordance with national policies, or strategic planning policies or allocations, and which comply with the other policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.”



Rick O'Farrell, Interim Executive Director of Regeneration, Commercial and Economy  
Northumberland county Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF  
T: 0345 600 6400 [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



- *The County Council and Parish Council agree that the possible modification would be acceptable and would result in a more consistent approach.*

### Policy 3

**The term “along *the river*” in the final paragraph is imprecise. Is it intended this reference is to the River Coquet or to the more generic term “along rivers”?**

- *The Parish Council confirm that this reference is intended to refer to the River Coquet. The County Council are happy to agree this.*

### Policy 5

**The final paragraph of the policy seeks to describe how development will be managed within the Local Green Spaces. Decision makers must rely on paragraph 101 of the Framework that states “*Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts*” and the part of the Framework that relates to ‘Protecting Green Belt land’, in particular paragraphs 143 to 147 inclusive. That part of the Framework sets out statements regarding the types of development that are not inappropriate in Green Belt areas. The policy must not seek to introduce a more restrictive approach to development proposals than apply in Green Belt without sufficient justification. (*R on the Application of Lochailort Investments Limited v Mendip District Council. Case Number: C1/2020/0812*). The wording of Policy 5 has adequate regard for the terms of the designation of Local Green Spaces set out in paragraph 99 of the Framework where it is stated communities will be able to protect green areas of particular importance to them. I invite comment on this conclusion.**

- *The County Council does not wish to make any further comment on this conclusion, other than that which is set out in the County Council’s formal representation on the Submission Draft Plan.*
- *The Parish Council has nothing to add to this.*

### Policy 7

**Is it intended the term “*existing large-scale holiday parks*” refers to Bockenfield Holiday Park, and Felmoor Park, and holiday chalets at Burgham Golf Course? I invite comment on a possible modification that the policy should specify those locations?**

- *The Parish Council agree that this policy should specify those locations.*



The term “*new large-scale holiday parks*” is imprecise. The final sentence seeks to establish support for visitor accommodation associated with farm diversification. Is it intended proposals for greater than a specific number of units of accommodation in any one location within the Neighbourhood Area will not be supported?

- *The Parish Council confirms that the assumptions made above are correct.*

I hope that you will find these comments helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification of any of the points raised.

Yours faithfully



David English

**Planning Manager  
Neighbourhood Planning**



**Rick O'Farrell, Interim Executive Director of Regeneration, Commercial and Economy**  
Northumberland county Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF  
T: 0345 600 6400 [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

