

Northumberland National Park Authority

Comments on the Wooler Neighbourhood Plan

30th April 2020

Dear Sarah,

The Examiner of the Wooler Neighbourhood Plan has sent her Questions and Clarification Note suggesting main modifications to the plan. I understand she has given the Parish Council (as the Qualifying Body) and Northumberland County Council (as the Local Planning Authority) the opportunity to comment on the note and the modifications proposed.

Thank you for asking whether the National Park would also like to make any comments, we have a few set out below:

Point 2 – Policy 1. We agree to the removal of the policy, but retaining the text as supporting.

Point 4 – Policy 2. We are happy with the deletion of this policy and the new suggested wording which aligns with our previous comments.

Point 5 – Glossary. We agree to the changes for the definition of Major Development which more closely matches our own.

Point 7 – Policy 3b. Content with the level of views specified, though agree a Visual and Landscape Assessment requirement would be useful.

Point 23 – Policy 10. In addition to the modification suggested... **Proposals in the National Park will also be considered against the Northumberland National Park Local Plan.**

Point 28 – Policy 12. Agree to the addition of 'sustainable' but do not agree to the removal of 'open' and 'existing'. Open makes it clear this is outside of the settlement or hamlets, and existing ensures the policy is supporting diversification rather than new speculative development which may not be sustainable in the open countryside.

Point 32 – Policy 15. Although caravans have been raised as an issue, we do not agree with NCC's suggestion to delete the term static caravan. It is perceivable, for example, that a site of chalets could be developed instead, which would have very much similar impacts.

Tony Gates

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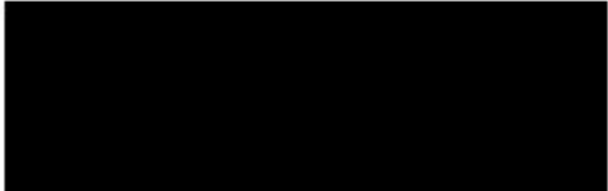


Instead, there should be a more restrictive policy for all overnight tourist accommodation, which is backed up by evidence.

Point 33 – Policy 15. We appreciate consideration of our comments and can accept the modification as proposed. However, we still feel the policy would benefit from giving separate consideration to the location of these sites; within the settlement, edge of settlement, open countryside, National Park – in a similar approach used for housing through Policies 5, 7, 9 and 10.

We hope that the above comments are helpful and we look forward to reading the Examiner’s final report.

Yours sincerely,



Susannah Buylla
Interim Head of Planning
Northumberland National Park Authority