



The countryside charity
Sussex

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Strategic Planning Team
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By email: planning.policy@adur-worthing.gov.uk

22nd March 2021

Dear Strategic Planning Team

Worthing Submission Draft Local Plan 2020 - 2036

This is the formal response of CPRE Sussex, countryside charity, to the above consultation. CPRE Sussex works to enhance, promote and protect the Sussex countryside and the ability of local communities to enjoy and value the natural world.

Overall, we are pleased with the 'Brownfield first' approach of the plan and the commitment to high standards of design to create low carbon development. However, we have some concerns with the plan which are set out in the attached consultation response document. We have some additional questions and would welcome further dialogue with you;

Climate Change

Adur and Worthing councils are rightly recognised as exemplars in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. On July 9th 2019, the Councils declared a Climate Emergency, and committed to working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. We would like to hear more from you as to how the Draft Local Plan will support this goal? For example, as you know, the government responded to the October 2019 consultation on the Future Homes Standard. [Title \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk) recognising that "local councils have been excellent advocates of the importance of taking action to tackle climate change", with "a unique combination of powers, assets, access to funding, local knowledge, relationships with key stakeholders and democratic accountability" A key statement is **"To provide some certainty in the immediate term, the government will not amend the Planning and Energy Act 2008, which means that local planning**

To promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside for everyone's benefit

President: Lord Egremont

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authorities will retain powers to set local energy efficiency standards for new homes". This gives Worthing the green light to go beyond building regs in setting the energy performance expected of new buildings in order to meet its climate commitments.

Impact of Covid 19

A second additional issue of interest to us is the impact of Covid 19 on the plan, in particular the need for retail and office space. We would recommend that some work to assess this is carried out before the examination in public so that the plan uses an evidence base which is as up to date as possible and accurately plans for the future development needs of the area.

Please advise as to a convenient time for further discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Osborn', is positioned above the typed name.

Professor Dan Osborn
Chair, CPRE Sussex