



The countryside charity  
Sussex

[Email sent to the Leader, Wealden District Council and received: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024]

Dear Cllr. Partridge,

I am writing to you as the Chair of CPRE (Sussex), the countryside charity.

Our members are keen to be involved in the current consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan, but the feedback I am continually receiving is that they are overwhelmed with the amount of documentation supplied to support the plan. They feel that in order to be able provide a properly informed response, that they should first understand the relevant background information, but this is very time consuming. I have looked through some of this documentation and must commend your Officers for the depth and thoroughness that the information provides in justifying and explaining the reasons for the plan policies, but I also sympathise with our members, most of whom find the planning "rules" and language somewhat alien.

I welcome your Council's wish to be open and inclusive whilst listening to your residents and being honest in return in explaining what the Council can and cannot do. I am sure that your Officers would much prefer that the feedback that is submitted under this consultation is relevant and well informed, but to reach this position takes time to assimilate the relevant documents.

I accept that the consultation period is two weeks longer than the minimum required, but given the volume and complexity of the information provided, I would like you to consider extending the consultation period by a month until 10th June.

Given that responses are being submitted via the portal, I doubt whether this extended period will delay your Officers in their review of the feedback, but I am sure that the extension will be welcomed by all those residents intending to take part. With close on 800 responses to the questions to date, this demonstrates the interest in the measures proposed in the plan (and suggests that Officers will be busy reviewing these responses).

Thus, please will you consider a month's extension to the consultation period?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Daniel Osborn,  
Chair, CPRE Sussex