

Summary and Analysis of the Consultation Process and Comments Received on the draft Waste and Minerals Plan January 2012

Consultation Period

- 1.1 The consultation ran for six weeks, between 27 October and 8 December 2011.

How people were notified

- 1.2 Notification was given by letter and email, with documents made available on the consultation portal and in local libraries or council offices.
- A factsheet was circulated to 20,000 residents in the Low Weald and in Bexhill. Factsheets were also sent to those who had responded to the Preferred Strategy consultation in 2009/2010.
 - Notification letters were sent to Parish Councils, District and Borough Councils in the Plan Area, neighbouring County Councils and adjacent authorities.
 - All consultees registered on the Objective database were notified by email, one week before the consultation began, as well as on the day the consultation started.
 - Neighbouring districts and parish councils were notified by email, as were key members of industry.
 - A reminder email was sent to everyone with an email address on the database (approx 1300 people) to let them know there was one week left to comment on the draft Plan.
 - Documents were made available at local libraries and District or Borough Council Offices, as well as through the East Sussex County Council website and at <http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk>.

Meetings

- 1.3 Letters to the Parish and Town Councils and Interest Groups included an offer to meet with them, if they felt this would be helpful.
- A stakeholder workshop was held at County Hall on 17th November 2011. This was attended by around twenty representatives from neighbouring counties, parish councils, local interest groups and the waste industry.
 - Meetings with held with Newhaven Town Council, Peacehaven Town Councils, Polegate Town Council and a joint meeting of Lewes District Council and Lewes Town Council.
 - PAAL (Piltdown Action Against Landraise) requested a meeting, and this was held at County Hall, Lewes.

Summary of Responses

- 1.4 87 individuals and organisations responded to the consultation, making around 170 comments. Comments were received in relation to Ashdown Brickworks, Pebsham Countryside Park, Newhaven and the Low Weald. There were no comments on Hangleton Bottom, Tutts Barn or Bellbrook. A summary of all responses received can be found below.
- 1.5 The majority of comments were supportive of the policies within the draft Plan. Particular support was given to
- 1) The move away from landraise policies (individuals, groups, Parish Councils. Districts and Boroughs);
 - 2) Less reliance on Ashdown Brickworks (individuals, groups, Parish Councils. Districts and Boroughs);
 - 3) The approach to waste management in alignment with the waste hierarchy;
 - 4) The approach to address concerns of local or host communities and requests that this is expanded throughout the Plan.
- 1.6 The following issues were raised as areas of concern, without objection to policy:
- 1) Forecasting of waste data relating to evidence other authorities hold;
 - 2) Plan is not aspirational enough in terms of reducing the level of waste produced or the use of technology;
 - 3) Requests from environmental bodies that policies are strengthened to increase protection for the natural environment in terms of biodiversity, soils and water quality;
 - 4) Clarification sought around implications for other forms of development by continued safeguarding of wharves, balanced by concerns from operators for more explicit safeguarding approach;
 - 5) Some concern that Ashdown Brickworks is not totally removed from consideration;
 - 6) Some concern that Pebsham Countryside Park could be affected by continued allocation for waste;
 - 7) Concern about additional waste uses proposed at North Quay, Newhaven
 - 8) Restriction of waste uses within the SDNPA
 - 9) Definition of 'major' development in relation to the SDNPA
- 1.7 In addition to the comments with asked for policy to be clarified, some consultees objected to the following:
- 1) The references to Ashdown Brickworks;
 - 2) The implications for Pebsham and Pebsham Countryside Park;
 - 3) The waste data forecasts and the implications for neighbouring authorities.

List of respondents

County Councils

Kent, Surrey, West Sussex.

Districts and Borough Councils

Rother, Wealden, Lewes, Eastbourne, Adur, Ashford, Mid-Sussex.

Parish and Town Councils

Brightling, Chalvington with Ripe, Chiddingly, Rotherfield, Newick, Ninfield, Arlington, Ripe, South Heighton, Laughton, Rottingdean, Ickelsham and Winchelsea, Plumpton, Cuckmere Valley, Telscombe, Polegate, Newhaven.

Statutory Consultees

Natural England, Environment Agency, HSE, Coal Authority

Industry and Business

Sovereign Harbour, Mineral Products Association, Southern Water, Dudmans, Positive Energy Sussex, Brett Group, Deanland Wood Park Ltd, Cemex, KTI, Magpie, Grovebridge Farm, Light Bros, Firle Estate, Rabbits, Ibstock (Veolia response to follow).

Interest Groups and

Wealden LSP, Brighton and Hove WAG, Friends of the Earth Brighton, Friends of the Earth Lewes, South Downs Society, CPRE Sussex, BALI, REAL.

Individuals (30)

Residents of the Low Weald, Pebsham and Bexhill.