

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 December 2017 13:39  
**To:** Consultation  
**Cc:** Planning Policy  
**Subject:** Fareham Local Plan Consultation  
**Attachments:** 08.12.17 form.pdf; 08.12.17 LP objection.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached the completed Comments form together with a Representation on the River Hamble.

Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF THE RIVER HAMBLE AND ITS VALLEY

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This representation objects that the proposed Plan currently fails to underline the importance of the River Hamble and its Valley and it provides insufficient protection to this unique landscape feature. Policies within the Plan address landscape and biodiversity but are generally applicable through out the Borough and do not target the River Hamble.

### **2.0 The Value of the River Hamble**

- 2.2 The River Hamble is recognised as an important landscape feature within the Borough. Furthermore, the River Hamble and its Valley is an important ecological site.
- 2.3 The River Hamble is nationally and internationally significant and renowned for its contribution to sailing and boating. In this regard it is an important recreational and tourism resource within the Borough which warrants special protection.
- 2.4 Such are the attributes of the River Hamble and the development pressures upon it that it deserves greater focus from the Local Plan than is currently being provided by the proposed policies.

### **3.0 The Polices of the emerging Plan**

- 3.1 Whilst there are policies which protect the countryside, the landscape and biodiversity and nature conservation generally there is no specific policy nor detailed paragraph addressing the needs of the River Hamble
- 3.2 It is noted that some protection of the River Hamble and its Valley is provided by the following policies in the emerging Local Plan

#### Policy SP5 Development in the Countryside.

- 3.3 This policy provides against development outside the urban areas unless the development is justified for essential rural services. It offers no additional level of protection targeted at the River Hamble.

#### Policy N2 Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

- 3.4 The above policy provides protection for all the sites within the hierarchy of designations identified in paragraph 9.8. Whilst the supporting text singles out the chalk pit in Downend Road for special mention (para 9.12) it makes no reference to the Hamble Valley.

### Policy N1 Landscape

- 3.5 The policy sets out that various requirements that development proposals must meet in terms of landscape impact. Although it refers to the 'Borough's rivers and coastline' there is no specific reference to the importance of the River Hamble.
- 3.6 The policy makes reference to the criteria set out in the Council's Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (part 2 of the Fareham Landscape Assessment). This Assessment distinguishes between the Upper and Lower River Hamble Valley.
- 3.7 In respect of the Upper Hamble River Valley the document identifies this part of the Hamble as highly sensitive. It states:-
- 'The sensitivity of the landscape resource in this area is judged as high, with very limited scope to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on landscape resources and features of particular value'.**
- 3.8 In respect of the Lower Hamble River Valley the document distinguishes 3 separate subareas, two of which are identified as having highly sensitive landscapes.
- 3.9 It is noted that in the assessment the value of the wooded areas within the valley to the landscape character is important.
- 3.10 Whilst the above policies offer protection to the River Hamble and its Valley it is considered that a more robust approach should be adopted within the Plan

### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 This representation objects to the absence of direct reference to the importance of the River Hamble and its Valley to the Borough in terms of landscape and ecological value. It is considered that there should either be a specific policy directed at the protection of the River Hamble Valley or that there should be more information in the supporting text. It should be much clearer that development within the River Hamble Valley will be carefully scrutinised and permitted only in circumstances where landscape and ecology have been carefully weighed and adequately protected.

# Comment on the Draft Fareham Local Plan 2036

How to have your say

Complete this form to comment on the Draft Local Plan. Please submit it to the Council by Friday 8 December 2017. You can download the pdf and type on to it before emailing it back to [consultation@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@fareham.gov.uk). You can leave more than one comment.

Provide us with your details

Please provide your contact details at the end of this survey. Doing this will help us to understand where people's views are coming from. Your name and address may be published but it will not be used for any other purposes.

Please provide the proposed policy, page number or paragraph number in the Draft Local Plan or Evidence Base you want to comment on

Absence of reference to River Hamble and its Valley

Please comment below.

Please refer to separate representation

Please provide the proposed policy, page number or paragraph number in the Draft Local Plan or Evidence Base you want to comment on

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Please comment below.

### A bit about you

You will need to provide your contact details at the end of this survey. This is a legal requirement in order for your comments to be taken into account and your address may be published. It will not be used for any other purposes.

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