



WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Daryl Phillips, Chief Executive
Hart District Council

5 July 2026

By email to: chiefexecutive@hart.gov.uk

Dear Mr Phillips

Hart District Council (HDC) has commenced preparation of the new Local Plan under the plan-making regime introduced through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. As this is a new process for all involved, Winchfield Parish Council (WPC) is keen to engage positively and constructively with the Council throughout this process, particularly in relation to matters affecting Winchfield and its surrounding area.

To support its engagement in the Local Plan process and other planning matters affecting the parish, WPC has appointed Troy Planning & Design (TPD) along with Stone & Meadow (SM) to provide independent planning policy and landscape advice. TPD & SM will be supporting the Parish Council in reviewing emerging evidence, responding to consultations and assisting with engagement throughout the plan-making process.

The Parish Council has submitted a detailed response to the recent Scoping Consultation, which we understand officers will review in due course. Looking ahead, WPC would welcome further information regarding the scope and methodology that will underpin preparation of the Local Plan, including the proposed approach to evidence gathering, stakeholder engagement and consultation. In particular, we would welcome early engagement on emerging evidence and technical studies where local knowledge and parish-level understanding may assist in ensuring that evidence is robust, proportionate and reflective of local circumstances.

WPC has a long-standing commitment to plan-led development and has invested considerable time and resources in preparing and maintaining its Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that the evidence, objectives and policies developed through that process, together with the parish's distinctive rural character, valued landscapes and environmental assets, are fully understood and considered as the new Local Plan emerges.

Following the recent Town and Parish Council engagement session, we understand that AECOM is progressing evidence base work to support the emerging Local Plan, including landscape character assessment work. The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to contribute positively to this process. WPC commissioned a Parish Landscape

Character Assessment, prepared by Michelle Bolger, in support of its Neighbourhood Plan. This work provided a detailed, locally informed understanding of landscape character within the parish, including key sensitivities, valued features and elements of local distinctiveness. We believe this evidence could usefully complement the district-wide assessment and would be pleased to discuss how best to share this work with the project team. Given the contribution that Winchfield's countryside, landscape setting and environmental assets make to the wider character and identity of Hart, the Parish Council is particularly keen to engage at an early stage as options emerge.

We note and welcome the Town and Parish Council engagement undertaken by HDC to date. We would be grateful to understand whether further engagement sessions are anticipated as the Local Plan progresses and how engagement with Town and Parish Councils will be incorporated into the plan-making process .

WPC would welcome the opportunity for an introductory discussion with officers and the AECOM team, should this be considered helpful. This would provide an opportunity to better understand the Local Plan programme, the Council's approach to engagement, and any specific matters that officers consider the Parish Council should be aware of at this stage. Representatives from TPD & SM would be pleased to attend in their capacity as planning advisers to the Parish Council and may act on the Council's behalf in discussions relating to planning policy and landscape evidence.

WPC recognises the challenges associated with preparing a new Local Plan within a changing national policy and legislative framework. The Parish Council is committed to engaging positively and constructively throughout the process and looks forward to working collaboratively with HDC to help ensure that local knowledge and community aspirations are appropriately reflected in the emerging plan.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Ball

Clerk to Winchfield Parish Council

CC: Meyrick Williams, Chairman, WPC
Daniel Hawes, Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager, HDC
Troy Planning
Stone and Meadow