

24th October 2022

Dear Catherine,

#### HIGH HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Further to our previous correspondence with the Examiner, the parish Council has sought and obtained advice from Richard Ground K.C. This letter is written with the benefit of his advice and reflects his opinions.

As you are aware, the Parish Council is keen that the Neighbourhood Plan should not lose momentum. Our intention, in drafting the policies relating to the land east of High Halstow, was to ensure that it meets the basic conditions, including being in general conformity with the strategic policies of adopted 2003 Medway Local Plan saved policies, including policy S1 of that Plan, but also to make provisions relevant to any application for development in the event it is allocated in the new Medway Local Plan. We are still keen to achieve those objectives.

Mr Lockhart-Mummery's concerns have made it clear to us that the policy needs revision and clarification and we are grateful for his frank criticisms of the Neighbourhood Plan in its current form. We therefore have decided to formally withdraw the HHNP, to enable us to make changes that clarify policies and text that relate to the land east of High Halstow, in particular, policy HHPQ4, to ensure it is in general conformity with the saved 2003 Local Plan including policy S1. This we can do under paragraph 2 of Schedule 4B of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990. We do not envisage that the amendments will be substantial, and we are keen to begin to redraft the NP so that it can be resubmitted as soon as practicable. We are advised that the changes are not such that it would be necessary to re-run previous pre-submission consultations, so we are hopeful that we can progress the plan so that it can be put forward for referendum as soon as possible; ideally early in 2024.

The Parish Council and its neighbourhood plan working group are most grateful to you and Mr Lockhart Mummery K.C. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely

Cllr George Crozer

Chair High Halstow Parish Council

Cllr Ray Collins

Chair Neighbourhood Plan Working Group