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Mrs Claire Jones-Hughes
Banks Solutions
C/O 6 Brading Road
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BN2 3PD

28th April 2016

Dear Mrs Jones-Hughes

Revised Proposed Submission Employment Land Local Plan - Response from Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council

The Council notes that as a result of this and other Plans, development to meet Eastbourne's housing need is being proposed in Wealden District Council area which includes Willingdon.

The Council further notes that it is stated in Chapter 17 of the Non Statutory Wealden Local Plan 2005, Paragraph 17.4:

"In recognition of the close inter-relationship between Polegate, Willingdon and Eastbourne in terms of transport, infrastructure and community services, a Planning Forum will be established. This will comprise principally representatives from Wealden District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council with the objective of liaising on common issues and co-ordinating land use planning matters in a way which helps facilitate the Local Plan strategy."

It was the clear expectation of this Council, and the District Councillors at that time, that they would have input to this Forum so as to represent the wishes and aspirations of our residents. This has not taken place and the Council asks that they be involved in the future on all matters which may affect Willingdon.

Paragraph 1.18 – South East Local Enterprise Partnership – Strategic Economic Plan

The Council is interested to see that funding has been committed from the Governments Local Growth Fund for transport schemes for the "Hailsham, Polegate and Eastbourne Sustainable Corridor" and an "Eastbourne and South Wealden walking and cycling package".

The Council is not aware of this funding and asks to be involved in how it is used particularly since the principal bus services from Wealden to Eastbourne run through Willingdon.

Paragraph 5.3 – Infrastructure

This Council has consistently expressed strong concern about the lack of infrastructure necessary to support the large scale development proposed by Wealden District Council for this area.

The South Wealden and Eastbourne Transport Study was undertaken before the latest proposals for development in south Wealden which includes doubling the size of Hailsham, 5,000 dwellings at Arlington and very large developments at Willingdon, Polegate and Stone Cross. The Study could not have fully taken into account these proposals because they were not known at that time.

Your employment land proposals are clearly intended to provide increased employment opportunities to people living outside Eastbourne and will result in increased traffic on all road accesses to Eastbourne.

Your Council will be aware of the congestion already on the A2270 at Willingdon and Polegate with often long queues of traffic stretching back in both directions particularly at peak periods giving rise to “rat running” through the residential streets of Willingdon.

Your Council will also be aware of serious congestion at peak periods on all access routes into and out of Eastbourne ie Kings Drive/Willingdon Road/Cross Levels Way/Lottbridge Drove/Langney Rise (B2014)/St Anthonys Avenue/Seaside Roundabout/Pevensy Bay Road (A259)/Hide Hollow/Friday Street/Golden Jubilee Way (A22)/Hampden Park level crossing.

Since there is already congestion on all local roads, it has to follow that the new developments in south Wealden coupled with your own development plans, increased employment opportunities and improved shopping in Eastbourne Town Centre will result in even more traffic and congestion.

Your Council will also be aware of serious problems with commuter parking at Polegate Railway Station already even before the new development is built.

This Council believes that your employment land proposals must be considered alongside development proposals in south Wealden and the increased traffic arising and, above all, improved local road infrastructure provided.

Since this original statement was submitted on 19 January, our Parish is now faced with the possibility of a new development of at least 390 houses on Brodricklands/Hamlands Farms which will result in even more pressure being put on our Parish from the increase in traffic which will result. Although the access to this development is proposed to come out in Eastbourne, it will still have an enormous effect on the roads in Willingdon. Infrastructure is, therefore, a major concern for us.

We also wish to add that the parking problems caused by commuters using Polegate Station continues to worsen as a result of East Sussex County Council failing to implement appropriate parking restrictions; the refusal of the Railways to provide proper off street parking on their land at the Station for commuters and at reasonable prices; the refusal of

police to enforce parking restrictions and the refusal of Wealden District Council to decriminalise parking.

If it would be helpful to the Inspector we would be willing to attend the hearing.

Stephen Keogh
Parish Clerk
Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council