



Our ref:

FAO Sara Loch
Chairman of Blandford +

22 March 2016

Dear Sara

Blandford + Pre-Submission Plan consultation

Thank you for providing Highways England with the opportunity to comment on the pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan for Blandford +, comprising the parishes of Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston.

Highways England is responsible for the strategic road network (SRN), which in this instance comprises the A31 and A35 to the south and the A303 to the north of the plan area. Of particular concern to us would therefore be any policies which have the potential to generate development which could impact on the A350/A31 junction and, to a lesser extent, the A354/A35 and A350/A303 junctions.

We have noted the Plan's position with regard to North Dorset District Council's Local Plan allocation of 1700 homes over the period to 2031, and support the focus on bringing forward policies aimed at ensuring employment, infrastructure, retail and services provision reflects the proposed housing growth, whilst recognising the environmental constraints and local character of the area. This should encourage self-containment and reduce the need for out-commuting.

We note the substantial development planned for the north and east of Blandford Forum which is covered in policy 1 and welcome the inclusion of the need for an assessment of traffic impacts. However, we note that significant residential development is also planned for Blandford St Mary. Some of this development is already the subject of a planning application, but we would encourage any further development proposals coming forward to consider the potential impact on the SRN, particularly the A350/A31 junction.

Please note that these do not prejudice any future responses Highways England may make on site specific applications as they come forward through the planning process, and which will be considered by us on their merits under the appropriate policy at the time.

Yours sincerely