

**CHILWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)**

**LIST OF RESPONDENTS**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Respondent</b>
001	Don Fox – Chilworth Science Park
002	C Armstrong
003	Highways Agency
004	Don Walk Consultancy – Wilky Property Holdings
005	Southampton City Council
006	English Heritage
007	Environment Agency

# CHILWORTH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

## SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES

### General Comments

#### Summary of Comments

Provides an interesting record of the character of the area and the nature of development there. It provides a useful set of recommendations for the future development in the area, in particular with regard to the discussions on specific design elements in order to preserve the distinctiveness of the village. (005)

#### Response

Noted

#### Change

No change

#### Summary of Comments

No comments at this stage, but expect to be consulted on any developments that may impact on the motorway and all-purpose trunk road network. (003)

#### Response

Noted

#### Change

No change

#### Summary of Comments

Did not have opportunity to comments by closing date. (006)

#### Response

Noted

#### Change

No change

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<b>Summary of Comments</b> Well structured report that is easy to follow while covering the major requirements. (007)
<b>Response</b> Noted
<b>Change</b> No change

<b>Summary of Comments</b> Pleased with the extent of community involvement/consultation in the development of the objectives within the report. (007)
<b>Response</b> Noted
<b>Change</b> No change

<b>Summary of Comments</b> Although only intended to provide guidance for future development proposal, it would be useful to have standard demographic/planning data at the beginning to provide a better understanding of the size and mix of the village and its population. (007)
<b>Response</b> Whilst it may be useful, it is not considered necessary or appropriate for such information to be added. Demographic and planning information regarding the parish can be readily obtained from alternative sources.
<b>Change</b> No change

<b>Summary of Comments</b> The VDS is for the whole of the extensive parish area, although at time it reads like a guide just for the original Old Village itself. (004)
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<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 3 makes clear that the word 'village' when used in the VDS refers to the village as a whole and not just the Old Village. Where individual reference is intended to the Old Village or Old Village Conservation Area this is referred to specifically.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>Should not be adopted as is over restrictive, and parish council should not be given additional sticks to beat. It should not be adopted. (002)</p> <p>The Borough Council must make sure that the VDS does not imply a general constraint on change that itself could be of dis-benefit to Chilworth and adjacent communities. (004)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The purpose of a VDS is not to restrict development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.</p> <p>The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the development plan.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>It is recognised that the VDS needs to be in accordance with the emerging Local Plan and is not about land use as such. However, the concern with conservation does not extend to the apparent rejection of any change. (004)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The purpose of a VDS is not to restrict development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.</p>

The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the development plan.
<b>Change</b>
No change

<b>Summary of Comments</b>
The parish council as similar to others, is ultra conservative in approach to planning and development and has sought to prevent it. This restricts development and increases house prices through scarcity, leading to shortage of affordable housing for key workers. (002)
<b>Response</b>
The purpose of a VDS is not to restrict development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.
The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the development plan.
The issue of a shortage of affordable housing is noted, although this is not a subject which is relevant to the content of the VDS.
<b>Change</b>
No change

<b>Summary of Comments</b>
The VDS does not address the things that the parish itself needs. The parish (and village) lacks housing type/choice at all family levels. This is particularly true of both young/starter families and for older/supported folk. The village itself lacks an identifiable centre of sense of place. (004)
<b>Response</b>
The purpose of a VDS is not to restrict development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.
The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the

development plan. If there is a need to address the things which the parish may need, these can be considered in the context of a Parish Plan if considered appropriate. The issue of a shortage of affordable housing is noted, although this is not a subject which is relevant to the content of the VDS.

It is considered that the spatial description of the parish in settlement pattern terms is appropriate.

**Change**

No change

**Summary of Comments**

Much of the 'village' works as a suburb of Southampton, but is unsustainable as a village community. It needs those careful changes which would enable a sense of place and community to develop and around improved services could develop. (There may even be a need from other communities which would reflect on the parish area, but it is recognised that this would be a wider local plan issue.) All this is achievable with care and with great local benefit without sacrificing the built or natural heritage. None of it is addressed by the VDS. (004)

**Response**

It is considered that the spatial description of the parish in settlement pattern terms is appropriate. Although bordering the City of Southampton, it is a distinct community beyond the city's boundary and one for which it is appropriate for a VDS to be prepared.

The purpose of a VDS is not to restrict development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.

The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the development plan. If there is a need to address the things which the parish may need or to enhance its sustainability, these can be considered in the context of a Parish Plan if considered appropriate. The issue of a shortage of affordable housing is noted, although this is not a subject which is relevant to the content of the VDS.

The adjoining parish councils and local authorities have been consulted on the VDS as part of this consultation.

**Change**

No change

## Our Vision for Chilworth (page 2)

### Summary of Comments

Bullet point 4 should be amended to read;

“Ensure that any development is appropriate ~~and limited~~ in scale.”

It carries the implication that any development which is not limited in scale would be inappropriate. The extant planning permission of office development at Kennels Farm is not limited development. (001)

### Response

This introductory list of principles is intended as a ‘vision’ statement for the parish which has informed the context of the documents preparation. The stated principles are not intended to be used as specific Recommendations. However, for clarity the suggested amendment is accepted

### Change

**Amend bullet point 4 on page 2 to read:**

**“Ensure that any development is appropriate ~~and limited~~ in scale.”**

### Summary of Comments

Bullet point 5 should be amended to read;

“Encourage the design of new buildings to be sympathetic with the adjacent local architecture.”

‘local’ lacks precision and does not reflect the mix of architectural style in the village and the presence of Chilworth Science Park. (001)

### Response

This introductory list of principles is intended as a ‘vision’ statement for the parish which has informed the context of the documents preparation. The stated principles are not intended to be used as specific Recommendations. However, for clarity the suggested amendment is accepted, but with the word ‘local’ also deleted.

### Change

**Amend bullet point 5 on page 2 to read:**

**“Encourage the design of new buildings to be sympathetic with the adjacent ~~local~~ architecture.”**

## Landscape and Conservation (pages 5-7)

### Summary of Comments

Fully support this section and those on Plant Life and Wildlife. Much which is very helpful in guiding any prospective change. However there is a lack of any current woodland management structure that would be needed to sustain these objectives. This is a matter which will need to be addressed and therefore reference here would be very relevant. The statements of this section can be consistent with the achievement of other parish objectives. (004)

### Response

Neither the parish council nor Borough Council has control over the management of the woodlands, which are in private ownership. Any proposals for enhanced management would be considered on their individual merits, but are not a matter of relevance to the VDS.

### Change

No change

### Summary of Comments

Support intention to maintain current character, in particular countryside, wildlife corridors and SINC's wherever possible and that SINC's are identified as intrinsic part of village character with aim to conserve. Intent would be improved if additional mention of potential to use statement and future planning decisions to identify, expand and enhance the area of countryside, wildlife corridors and SINC's wherever possible. (007)

### Response

Support noted. The VDS can be used in the context of future planning decisions as these may affect the issues raised, although it is not considered that this should include specific reference to identification, expansion and enhancement. These can be considered as relevant on their merits in the context of individual planning applications.

### Change

No change



<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>Would be further enhanced if objectives included a commitment to not only protect SINCs and countryside but to deliver on key BAP actions, from Hampshire or UK Biodiversity Action Plans. (007)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Borough Council is currently preparing a Test Valley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which will have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It is considered that this is the appropriate document for this to be addressed rather than the VDS.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>The VDS could be construed as seeking to limit the amount of development acceptable in the village by arguing for the protection of strategic gaps and countryside around the village and also for the retention of the low density development pattern. Whilst important to prevent inappropriate development, it must be considered alongside other planning documents affecting the area. As the proposals for South Hampshire in the South East Plan are yet to be finalised, it should not hinder delivery of the required amount of housing in the sub-region. (005)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The purpose of a VDS is not to restrict development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.</p> <p>The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the development plan. It is this which defines strategic gaps and countryside designations. It is accepted that the VDS does sit alongside other relevant planning documents and is considered that the VDS is compatible with the current development plan.</p> <p>The South East Plan is still in preparation and it is premature to reflect its potential proposals for the South Hampshire sub-region in the VDS at present. The South East Plan will inform the future Local Development Framework.</p> <p>This recommendation on low density development is in line with Policy SET 02 Areas of Special Residential Character and Policy ESN 03 Housing Types, Density and Mix of the Borough Local Plan Review, which has both been supported by the Inspectors' who recommended no modifications to these policies, following their consideration at the recent public inquiry into the plan.</p>

Policy SET 02 seeks to maintain the characteristics of low density development, with large plots and mature trees. Policy ESN 03 which requires a minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare (d.p.h.) for new residential development in line with guidance in PPG3, makes a specific exception for Areas of Special Residential Character as defined by SET 02.

**Change**

No change

**Summary of Comments**

The reference for substantial houses in large plots (described as low density residential development) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> recommendation on page 7, does not seem compatible with national guidelines for higher density building. Each case should be viewed on its own merits and where an owner what a large house it should be allowed but not translated in a policy. The parish council should not be given additional ammunition. (002)

**Response**

This recommendation is in line with Policy SET 02 Areas of Special Residential Character and Policy ESN 03 Housing Types, Density and Mix of the Borough Local Plan Review, which has both been supported by the Inspectors' who recommended no modifications to these policies, following their consideration at the recent public inquiry into the plan.

Policy SET 02 seeks to maintain the characteristics of low density development, with large plots and mature trees. Policy ESN 03 which requires a minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare (d.p.h.) for new residential development in line with guidance in PPG3, makes a specific exception for Areas of Special Residential Character as defined by SET 02.

**Change**

No change

**Summary of Comments**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> recommendation on page 7 should be amended to read;  
“-protect the existing flora (where trees have to be removed due to their deteriorating condition, they should be replaced with ~~native~~ species appropriate to the environmental context)”  
‘native’ is unduly restrictive, since they are many non-native species thought to be native and some parts of Chilworth are planted with non-native species which are valued as part of the landscape. (001)

**Response**

The suggested amendment is accepted.

## Change

Amend the 3<sup>rd</sup> recommendation on page 7 to read:

“-protect the existing flora (where trees have to be removed due to their deteriorating condition, they should be replaced with native species appropriate to the environmental context)”

Amend the 2<sup>nd</sup> point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point on page 22 to read:

“- Protect the existing flora. Where trees have to be removed due to their deteriorating condition, they should be replaced with native species appropriate to the environmental context.”

## Settlement Pattern (page 10)

### Summary of Comments

Chilworth is described as not being defined by any central focus. This goes further and it is not a village or community in any normal sense. It is a dormitory for the affluent and is likely to have a higher than average level of transience if the number of sale boards is an indicator. (002)

### Response

It is considered that the spatial description of the parish in settlement pattern terms is appropriate. Although it may have characteristics distinct from other villages, this is something which the VDS can reflect in its description and recommendations. It is not inappropriate for a VDS for the parish to be prepared.

The socio-demographic composition of the local population is not a relevant factor to whether a VDS is appropriate for the area or to its content, nor is whether this is of a transient nature or not.

### Change

No change

### Summary of Comments

Although the VDS does not have a prescriptive land use allocation role, it should note:

- Acknowledged lack of a recognisable village centre could and should be addressed to enable the village to have some community focus and identity
- Recognised weakness of housing choice, particularly at the ‘starter’ end and the supported older resident end of provision
- Investment aimed at strengthening the village presence would create a more sustainable community and more easily justify improvements to public transport and needed cycle networks (004)

<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The purpose of a VDS is not to promote development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality and in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.</p> <p>It is considered that the spatial description of the parish in settlement pattern terms is appropriate.</p> <p>The principle of whether or not development is acceptable is determined by the development plan. If there is a need to address the things which the parish may need, these can be considered in the context of a Parish Plan if considered appropriate. The issue of a shortage of housing choice is noted, although this is not a subject which is relevant to the content of the VDS.</p> <p>Any infrastructure improvements to assist in making the community more sustainable can be considered on their merits outside the scope of the VDS.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

**Employment (page 14)**

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>Welcome comments regarding movement of industrial operation resulting from research and development undertaken at the science park, outside the Chilworth area. This is beneficial strategic decision to ensure the protection of the significant natural areas within Chilworth. (007)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>The approach to the science park is negative. UK plc and future generations will need type of employment it offers. Over protective policies for flora and fauna will not put bread</p>
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on the table. The parish council have a history of opposition to the science park which should not be strengthened. (002)
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>It is considered that the VDS is in keeping with local plan policy regarding the science park and is not therefore inappropriate in its content.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>This section could be further improved by ensuring that future development of the science park is not only kept within the campus and village character and design, but does not extend beyond the park's current boundaries. (007)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The boundary of the science park and its potential future expansion is an issue to be addressed through the local plan and in the context of individual planning applications and not for the VDS to determine.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph should be amended to read;  <del>“The charter for activities conducted on purpose of Chilworth Science Park is to nurture the development of “knowledge based” companies, which are important to the economic prosperity of both the region and the country. In this context, <u>one of its roles</u> is to foster Research and Development activities, which need to strong links with academia and which, if viable, need to be scaled from the laboratory into an industry. However, once the feasibilities of such scaling have been investigated and become established, then the resulting industrial operations should move on to premises elsewhere. <u>Permitted activities on the science park are specified in s106 agreements between the planning authority and the science park”</u></del>  There is no ‘charter for activities’ other than s106 agreements. (001)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The suggested amendment is accepted in broad terms, although it is considered that the major role of the science park is to foster Research and Development and that that new sentence would be better expressed with alternative wording.</p>

## Change

Amend the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 14 to read:

**“The ~~charter for activities conducted on~~ purpose of Chilworth Science Park is to nurture the development of “knowledge based” companies, which are important to the economic prosperity of both the region and the country. In this context, its major role is to foster Research and Development activities, which need strong links with academia and which, if viable, need to be scaled from the laboratory into an industry. ~~However, once the feasibilities of such scaling have been investigated and become established, then the resulting industrial operations should move on to premises elsewhere.~~ Permitted activities are regulated by s106 agreements between Chilworth Science Park and the local planning authority.”**

## Summary of Comments

The 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph should be amended to read;

“Activities and development on Chilworth Science Park should be sensitive to the rural nature of the location and of its surrounding environment, ~~including Chilworth Old Village and conservation area.~~ Accordingly, any development of Chilworth Science Park should ensure that:”

The reference to Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area is inappropriate since there is complete screening of the old village from every part of the science park by The Clump and Buxley Wood.” (001)

## Response

The suggested amendment is accepted.

## Change

Amend the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph on page 14 to read:

**“Activities and development on Chilworth Science Park should be sensitive to the rural nature of the location and of its surrounding environment, ~~including Chilworth Old Village and conservation area.~~ Accordingly, any development of Chilworth Science Park should ensure that:”**

## Summary of Comments

The 1<sup>st</sup> bullet point of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph should be amended to read;

- “no domination of ~~the village occurs~~ housing visible from the science park through scale or visual or other intrusion.”

It is not clear whether the reference to village refers to the whole parish or old village, which cannot be seen from science park. (001)

## Response

The 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 3 makes clear that the word ‘village’ when used in the VDS refers to the village as a whole and not just the Old Village. Where individual reference is

intended to the Old Village or Old Village Conservation Area this is referred to specifically.  
It is considered that the reference to the 'village' in the context is appropriate.

**Change**  
No change

**Summary of Comments**  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph should be amended to read;  
• "it takes account of its proximity to ~~existing and potential~~ conservation areas".  
Reference to potential conservation areas is unreasonable. (001)

**Response**  
The suggested amendment is accepted.

**Change**  
Amend the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph on page 14 to read;  
• "it takes account of its proximity to ~~existing and potential~~ conservation areas".

**History and Evolution (page 15)**

**Summary of Comments**  
Noted that much of the built heritage of the parish stems from the 1930s and the Willis Fleming estate developments. This now represents the heritage to be protected. Perhaps the 21<sup>st</sup> Century could also add development to the benefit of the village and its community which would be protected in the future. (004)

**Response**  
The recommendations regarding architecture do not preclude modern or non-traditional designs for new development where these would not detract from the character of the area.

**Change**  
No change

## Architecture (pages 16-21)

### Summary of Comments

The section could be helpful in guiding any future development and change. (004)

### Response

Noted

### Change

No change

### Summary of Comments

Recommendations relating to the maintenance of village building design and character in relation to the construction of additions and new dwellings is welcome. Concerned however, by absence of objectives relating to sustainable building practices and sustainable housing design. New dwellings should be aiming to meet a BREEAM rating of excellent to very good. Materials utilised for construction of additions and new building should where possible utilise recycled and sustainable materials. Sustainability needs to be incorporated into the life cycle of dwellings from materials to construction to inhabitancy. (007)

### Response

It is not considered that these are issues which should be included within the VDS, the focus of which is design. They are better addressed through Building Regulations and policies within the local plan as far as relevant to the planning process. The use of second hand materials may not always be the most appropriate option and can potentially encourage theft from historic buildings.

### Change

No change

### Summary of Comments

The mention of building designs to be energy efficient, non-polluting and constructed of sustainable materials and wherever possible is welcomed. It is however felt that this needs to be reinforced in the Architectural Details and Materials section (page 17) and more importantly needs to be an objective within either of these two sections and at the end of the document as part of the future objectives for extensions and new dwellings. (007)



<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>It is not considered that these are issues which should be included within the VDS, the focus of which is design. They are better addressed through Building Regulations and policies within the local plan as far as relevant to the planning process.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>Comment referring to the incorporation of existing and new trees into development plans for extensions or new construction is welcomed. Emphasis should be given to the retention of existing trees over the implementation of new ones and plans adapted accordingly wherever possible. (007)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>It is considered that the current wording is appropriate. The issue of retention of existing trees will be considered in the context of each individual planning application. Any trees which are important to amenity will be considered to assess whether they are worthy of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). It would be unreasonable to seek to retain all trees.</p>
<p><b>Change</b></p> <p>No change</p>

**Chilworth: The Future (page 22)**

<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p> <p>All the stated VDS objectives are supported. It might add however that within these design parameters, identified weaknesses in the parish area could and should be addressed. (004)</p>
<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The purpose of a VDS is not to promote development, but provide design guidance and recommendations to ensure that any development of whatever scale which does take place is of a high quality and in keeping with local characteristics in terms of design features. Development should not detract from the existing important features defined by the local community which should be preserved.</p> <p>If there is a need to address things which the parish may need, these can be considered</p>

in the context of a Parish Plan if considered appropriate.
<b>Change</b>
No change

<b>Summary of Comments</b>
The six key points provided are well positioned to provide for future development that will nurture and conserve the village's current character. However the recommended guidance fails to mention sustainable housing issues. The objectives should be expanded to incorporate the use of sustainable materials and sustainable design. (007)
<b>Response</b>
It is not considered that these are issues which should be included within the VDS, the focus of which is design. They are better addressed through Building Regulations and policies within the local plan as far as relevant to the planning process.
<b>Change</b>
No change

<b>Sustainability Appraisal</b>
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<b>Summary of Comments</b>
The VDS was measured against the Sustainability Appraisal which states that; 'The local plan has the objective of providing a framework for making decisions...which respect the environment, meets the needs of the community and enhances the quality of life.' From this broad statement seven objectives are set down against which a VDS should be appraised. It is considered that the VDS does not adequately consider number 2 and 5 and fails to address number 4. (004)
<b>Response</b>
The local plan objectives used for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) are; <i>2. To protect and conserve the Borough's natural and built environment, including wildlife, landscapes, natural resources and cultural heritage.</i> The SA assesses that the VDS will have a very positive impact on cultural heritage, a potentially positive impact on wildlife and landscape and negligible impact or be not relevant to natural resources. The reflects the recognition which they are given in the document.  <i>5. To achieve a pattern of land use and a network of transport links that reduce the overall need to travel through the location and design of development and by encouraging</i>

*the use of alternatives to the car.*

The SA assesses that the VDS will have a negligible impact or is not relevant. This reflects the nature and purpose of the document.

*4. To meet the needs for housing, employment, community facilities, tourism and infrastructure in ways that support viable communities, maintain a robust local economy and maintain the high quality environment of the Borough.*

The SA assesses that with the exception of housing where there may a potential positive impact in terms of assisting this being met in a manner sympathetic to the local area and taking account of its characteristics, the VDS will have a negligible impact or is not relevant. This reflects the nature and purpose of the document.

It is considered that the assessment against the local plan objectives made by the SA is appropriate.

### **Change**

No change

### **Summary of Comments**

Acknowledge the provision of a succinct Sustainable Appraisal Report and appreciated that provided in an efficient format only scoping only information required to achieve objective. The seven objectives to assess sustainability are considered sound and appears that VDS is sustainably sound option for future development and will be further enhanced through incorporation of comments.

However unable to comment on two options provided as comparison has not been given. For a true option appraisal, there should be an additional column in order to assess whether or not a VDS should be undertaken. The 3<sup>rd</sup> column should be re-titled 'Impact of Implementing VDS' and a new 4<sup>th</sup> column added titled 'Impacts on not Implementing VDS'.

A brief paragraph should be added at the end to outline the implications of the additional option and the preferred option resulting from the assessment. If the preferred option is not to implement the VDS then the reasons why it is being implemented should be provided to meet the requirements of an SA. (007)

### **Response**

Accept the suggested amendment, subject to titling the columns "Impact with VDS" and "Impact without VDS" rather than "Impacts of Implementing VDS" and "Impacts of not Implementing VDS".

### **Change**

**Amend the table in the SA to re-title the "Impact" column "Impact with VDS" and add an additional column "Impact without VDS" to assess the impact against each issue of the objectives of a VDS not being undertaken.**

Add an additional paragraph after the SA table to read:  
**“Sustainability Appraisal Overview**

**The sustainability appraisal considered the impact of either adopting a VDS or continuing without one, against each of the objectives of the Local Plan. In summary, the appraisal demonstrates that there are particular sustainability advantages to having a VDS. However, it should be appreciated that such an appraisal is a subjective exercise.”**

Add an additional sentence at the end of the paragraph regarding the objective to Protect and Conserve to read:

**“Without the VDS, there is potential for a negative impact on these objectives as the environmental and landscape and cultural heritage values of the village may be less well understood and consequently less sensitively reflected in new development.”**

Add two additional sentence at the end of the paragraph regarding the objective on Quality of Design to read:

**“Without the VDS, there is more risk of development which fails to sensitively reflect the built environment and landscape qualities of the village because of a lack of appreciation of the context. Consequently, overtime, inappropriate developments can cumulatively deteriorate this distinctiveness and have a negative impact of the community.”**

Amend the paragraph regarding the objective on Amenity to delete the existing sentence and replace it with a new sentence to read:

**“Having a VDS may well assist in protecting the amenity of the village as it will provide a better appreciation of the built character. ~~amenity of the area should be assisted in being safeguarded.~~”**