

Hilary Hanslip
Planning Department
Suffolk Coastal District Council
East Suffolk House
Riduna Park, Station Road
Melton
IP12 1RT

08/03/2017

Dear Hilary,

RE: Melton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting us on the Melton Neighbourhood Plan, we have the following comments:

Chapter 7 – Environment

Support the intentions of this chapter to protect and enhance the natural environment of the parish. In particular, we support Policies MEL12 (Protection and Maintenance of Local Green Spaces) and MEL13 (Protection of Trees and Rural Character) which seek to protect sites and features likely to be of biodiversity value.

We would recommend that the chapter (and a relevant policy) is extended to include reference to the County Wildlife Sites (CWS) present within the parish. They could also be included on the Proposals Map. Details of the CWS within the parish are available from Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS).

Chapter 10 – Land off Wilford Bridge Road

Chapter 10 and Policy MEL21 (Land off Wilford Bridge Road) include the identification of the only area of land proposed for residential development in the plan. Whilst we recognise the acknowledgement within the chapter and policy that any development at this site will need to ensure that it does not have an adverse impact on the Deben Estuary, the policy should also include reference to any development at this site not having an adverse impact on Protected species and Priority species and habitats. The policy should also seek to retain any habitats of biodiversity value already present on the site.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Paragraph 3.29 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) document (Dec 2016) identifies that monitoring, in the form of an annual survey, needs to be undertaken to identify movements between the proposed new dwellings (part of Policy MEL21) and the Deben Estuary. The Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying HRA should acknowledge the Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) which is currently being prepared by Suffolk Coastal DC (in partnership with Ipswich Borough DC and Babergh DC). It should be ensured that measures identified in the Neighbourhood Plan do not conflict with or duplicate measures to be secured through the RAMS.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

James Meyer
Senior Conservation Planner