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Planning Policy Manager
The Planning Policy Team, Chiltern District Council
King George V House
King George V Road
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HP6 5 AW

For the attention of **David Waker**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Delivery Development Plan Document - Bellington Village Community Proposal

A number of residents within Bellington are of the view that the village should pursue a community led project potentially making use of the provisions of the Localism Act. It is intended that in the near future a forum including trustees of the village hall will be more formally established to promote a community led project for investment in the amenities and housing provision within the village.

Whilst various options for the enhancement of the village are being considered, a key component is the potential to establish new village playing fields and associated facilities in proximity to the village's historic public house – The Bull. The idea would be to establish significantly improved facilities to provide an attractive hub for the village and community to come together, which would importantly provide enhanced viability for the existing public house.

Such a proposal would be dependent for funding on a community promoted development on land at the existing village hall and grounds. This in our view would accord with central Government's intention for communities to bring forward development proposals in their local areas. In addition, whilst it is acknowledged that the entire village is within the designated Green Belt, it is noted that the NPPF (Paragraph 90) envisages a degree of exception for such proposals by providing that, for community led proposals brought forward under Community Right to Build orders, these would not constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Whilst we appreciate that the initial consultation period for the emerging DDPD has already run and that you will be consulting on a draft document shortly, we would ask that the Council consider at this stage the potential to make a small addition to the revised proposals map to identify the existing village hall and associated playing fields as an area of opportunity for a community led proposal together with land associated with the public house.

It is our view that such an addition to the Local Plan would provide a valuable material consideration when considering an exception to the standard approach under Policy GB2 (or its replacement policy) should an appropriate community led proposals be brought forward.

We would be pleased to meet with officers to discuss this proposal further and in particular how emerging policy can be suitably cast within the DDPD to ensure that a shared vision for this potential opportunity to significantly improve the quality of the residential environment of the village and its facilities is given the best chance of success.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Evershed
On behalf of a number of residents of Bellington Village