

West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan

Schedule of Proposed Modifications

January 2018

The Midhurst Society notes and endorses the remarks of West Lavington Parish Council and in addition wishes to make the following representations with regard to the Schedule of Proposed Modifications to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan, which we understand now covers the extraction of soft sand.

MM1: We welcome the change to the 1st paragraph of the Executive Summary which now states that minerals (and soft sand) resources will be safeguarded, and exploited in a manner which only sees minerals (and soft sand) development within the SDNP take place in exceptional circumstances and in the public interest.

For the avoidance of doubt, it should also state that there is a presumption of refusal of any proposal for new sites and for extensions to existing sites (either spatial or temporal in nature) unless the applicant is able to demonstrate that there is no alternative source outside the boundaries of the SDNP.

MM7: The SDNPA should not seek to define where the majority of resources are to be found; it is for the applicant to demonstrate that there are no alternative resources outside the borders of the SDNP.

MM15: The existence of chalk reserves of 90 years should not be the major factor when considering any application for the extension of existing permissions. Regardless of this estimate, the applicant should first demonstrate that reserves are not available outside the SDNP.

MM18: Whilst the existence of sharp sand and gravel reserves of 65 years should be noted it is not the duty of the SDNPA to ensure that they are utilised. The presumption must remain that they are only to be extracted in exceptional circumstances (including the absence of alternative sources outside the SDNP).

MM21: This amendment suggests that the SDNPA is more concerned with managing the extraction of minerals (having regard to market demand) than of safeguarding deposits and only permitting extraction in exceptional circumstances.

MM22: Proposals for soft sand extraction should not be permitted 'to meet a shortfall'. The SDNPA should not be responsible for calculating shortfall, but only for considering whether the applicant has demonstrated that there is a shortfall which cannot be met outside the SDNP.

MM41: All proposals for exploration and appraisal for oil and gas not involving hydraulic fracturing should first be measured against the national commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. Exploration is not an end in itself, and the presumption must be that successful exploration and appraisal will result in a desire to extract fossil fuels over the medium to long term. Such proposals

should be rejected on the grounds that they will lead to a deterioration in living conditions locally and globally.

MM42: All proposals for exploration and appraisal for oil and gas involving hydraulic fracturing should first be measured against the national commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. Exploration is not an end in itself, and the presumption must be that successful exploration and appraisal will result in a desire to extract fossil fuels over the medium to long term. In addition to the impact on emissions, hydraulic fracturing involves the use of large quantities of water. In the SDNP, indeed in the whole of the south-east of England, water resources are under increasing pressure as demand increases while periods of drought become more frequent. Such proposals should be rejected on the grounds that they will lead to a deterioration in living conditions locally and globally.

End