

Tel: 01403 264548.

Horsham Society,
82 Worthing Road,
Horsham,
West Sussex,
RH12 1TD.

16th November 2018.

Southwater Parish Council,
Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square,
Fairbank Road,
Southwater,
West Sussex,
RH13 9LA.

For the attention of Mrs Catharine Tobin - (Clerk). (parish@southwater-pc.gov.uk)

Dear Mrs Tobin,

Re: Southwater Neighbourhood Plan.

The Horsham Society Planning Sub Committee have taken the opportunity to review your draft Neighbourhood Plan and we have concerns regarding the limited extent of Local Green Space that you are proposing to designate in the Neighbourhood Plan for the North face of Denne Hill.

The Society originally approached Horsham District Council in March 2014, with a proposal to designate the North face of Denne Hill as a Local Green Space in the HDPF. However, HDC decided not to include any Local Green Spaces in their plan, leaving this for the individual Neighbourhood Plans. Therefore, both John Steele and Michael Hall met with representatives of Southwater Parish Council on 30th October 2015 and asked them to consider including Denne Hill as a LGS in their Neighbourhood Plan, as it lies within Southwater Parish. However, to date there has been no further communication from yourselves until the recent publication of the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

We believe that there is a strong case for the inclusion of the North face and summit of Denne Hill, and its immediate surroundings as a Local Green Space, meeting all the requirements of the NPPF, and being in reasonably close proximity to the community that it serves. Furthermore, it is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of its beauty, historic significance and recreational value as a place of local recreation for hundreds of years, and a place of tranquility close to Horsham town centre. It is an important scenic feature, framing the South of the town and visible from much, if not most of the town, since the land on which the town is built rises Northwards from the Arun river, providing Southerly views towards Denne Hill. It is essential that it is afforded protection.

Consideration should be given to including the North face from Chesworth to the old Worthing Road, including sufficient of the summit to ensure preservation of the important tree line, including the meadows below Denne Hill and to the South of the railway line.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David Griffiths. (secretary to the Horsham Society Planning Sub Committee)