

**Hastings Borough Council reply to Bourne Leisure's (0292) written statement under Matter 3.7 regarding suggested changes to Policy CC1**

The Council does not consider that the suggestions put forward on behalf of Bourne Leisure are appropriate or necessary and could not accept any of the suggested explanatory text changes suggested by Bourne Leisure for the following reasons:

The Local Plan objectives are already clearly set out in the Hastings Planning Strategy. This strategic level document was adopted by the Council in February 2014. Given the very recent adoption of this document it is neither, necessary, appropriate nor feasible to make a change to Objective 1 as suggested by Bourne Leisure in their submitted statement.

The suggested introduction of a new paragraph and heading to that section on the Development Management Plan (DMP) dealing with caravan, camping and chalet sites is superfluous as it simply repeats text contained at paragraph 9.16 and the bullet points listed under "Priorities for tourism" on page 82 of the Planning Strategy. When adopted, the DMP should be read in conjunction with the adopted Planning Strategy as part of the Development Plan.

The text changes suggested to paragraph 5.35 and the introduction of a new paragraph following 5.35 are unacceptable to the Council. Proposals for the expansion of existing caravan, camping and chalet facilities must be judged on an individual site by site basis. The proposed wording implies that the Council is accepting in advance of any such planning schemes that the principle of expansion will be acceptable subject to mitigation measures being included in such proposals.

As clearly set out in paragraph 5.35 of the Development Management Plan (page 43), most of these existing facilities lie within or adjoin the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and other significant environmental designations. In view of importance of these assets and the weight given to their protection in national planning guidance (NPPF), the introduction of the wording proposed by Bourne Leisure would seem to imply a presumption in favour of development within such areas and thus would be contrary to the Framework, the adopted Strategy and to sustainable development.