Comment

Consultee	Environment Agency (688210)
Email Address	[redacted]
Company / Organisation	
Address	
Event Name	Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation
Comment by	[redacted]
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Q1.To which document do your comments relate?	Wickersley NDP Submission Version April 2021
Q2. Do you wish to?	Make Observations

Q3. Please provide your comments below making clear which part of the document you are referring to (specifying relevant paragraphs, tables, figures, boxes or appendices).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

We note that the Council has a responsibility to advise the Parish Council if there is a need for formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. You are seeking our views in order to inform the Council's decision on this matter.

We have considered the draft plan and its policies against those environmental characteristics of the area that fall within our remit and area of interest.

Having considered the nature of the policies in the Plan, we consider that it is **unlikely that significant negative** impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan.

Draft Plan

We have **no objections** to the draft plan

Drainage

It will be **unlikely** that any new developments will be able to connect to Yorkshire Waters sewer system as this area is at full capacity

Please ensure this part of the plan as this is a major issue for future developments.

Non Mains Drainage

The National Planning Practice Guidance and the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidance Note 4 clearly set out a foul drainage hierarchy which aims to encourage foul drainage disposal to a mains sewer system whenever one is available. Where a mains sewer connection cannot be achieved, applicants must first consider the use of a package treatment plant discharging to a soakaway. Provided there is sufficient land available and the ground conditions are such that a soakaway will be effective, the ground will provide additional attenuation to the quality of the water discharged. A septic tank discharged to soakaway may also be acceptable in some circumstances. If there is insufficient land available for a soakaway, or ground conditions mean one would not operate effectively, applicants must consider whether a discharge direct to a watercourse, drain or surface water sewer may be available. A receiving watercourse must be capable of accepting both the proposed quantity and quality of discharge. If a direct discharge is possible, a package treatment plant must be used. If neither the use of a soakaway or a direct discharge is possible, consideration may then be given to the use of a system without any discharge such as a sealed cess pool or chemical toilet. Such sealed systems are a last resort given their need to be regularly emptied and their capacity to overflow or be breached. The traffic impacts and carbon emissions associated with regular emptying, and the risk that they may discharge raw sewage direct to the water environment means these solutions have the potential to render such a development unsustainable. In addition, the applicant may also require an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency for water discharge activity. They would be advised to contact our National Permitting Service (Tel. 08708 506 506) at the earliest opportunity. For more general advice, applicants are advised to refer to our Pollution Prevention Guidance Note number 4 via our website (http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/PMHO0706BJGL-E-E.pdf?lang=_e)

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Water quality

Proper management is important to protect water quality, both for groundwater and surface water resources.

Polluted surface water flows from areas like car parks or service yards should always have sufficient pollution prevention measures in place to ensure the protection of groundwater and watercourses from specific pollutants like petrol (hydrocarbons) and suspended solids. Developers should follow appropriate pollution prevention guidance when designing formal drainage for large areas of hardstanding.

Ideally, applicants should introduce more ‘surface’ or ‘green’ drainage solutions to aid improvements in water quality, such as swales along hardstanding boundaries, or a more advanced reed bed system for larger sites. These solutions are easier to access and maintain than engineered solutions like petrol/oil interceptors, which require regular maintenance to ensure they operate correctly.

Kind regards

Q5. Do you wish to be notified of the Council’s decision under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 whether to accept the Examiners’ recommendation? (please tick)

. Yes, please notify me of the Council's decision