

Harrietsham Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Eddie Powell
Clerk: Mrs Amanda Broadhurst

25th November 20210
(Sent via email)

Strategic Planning Team
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone, Kent
ME15 6JQ

Dear Sir

Re: Local Plan Regulation 19 Review Consultation

Following our recent Parish Council meeting, Councillors have asked me to write to you regarding the above consultation, which is currently live on your website.

Having read the content included in the review, Councillors are dismayed that the Borough Council has allowed only a 6-week consultation period. The Local Plan is an important document, and the content will affect all residents for many years to come. They deserve the opportunity to digest the various policies fully, approach Parish Councils and other elected members to ask any questions, and still have time to submit a meaningful response. The Parish Council does not believe that 6 weeks is enough to enable this.

We have also looked at the response period given to some of the other Borough Council consultations and cannot fathom why Officers felt it was acceptable to offer just 6 weeks:

Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders (2018) – 8 weeks 2 days
Draft Housing Strategy (currently live) – 7 weeks
Future use of Archbishop's Palace (2021 – 7 weeks 3 days

With this in mind, Harrietsham Parish Council would request that the consultation response deadline be moved to Monday 4th January 2022, to allow additional time for residents to submit their responses.

We hope you will look on our request favourably.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Broadhurst
Clerk to Harrietsham Parish Council

Cc Ms A Broom – Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council