

Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation Comments

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To: EHDC - Neighbourhood Plans Shared <neighbourhoodplans@easthants.gov.uk>

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To whom it may concern,

I write in support of the proposed neighbourhood plan for Rowlands castle and to thank those involved in its preparation.

I would like to raise some specific points in relation to the policies proposed:

Policy 1. Gaps between settlements

I support this policy.

Policy 2. Landscape character and views

Visual clutter should be avoided and removed from the key views identified where possible. Over-scaled and unnecessary signage is proliferating within the village centre and detracting from the setting of key heritage / character assets and particularly, views of and from the village green.

Further to this, excessively bright or coloured external lighting of buildings should be discouraged to preserve the rural night-scene of the village and also the dark skies within the nearby South Downs.

Policy 8. Parking.

The document proposes a preference for off-street parking. The loss of front gardens to 'maximum capacity driveways' can be detrimental to the street scene. I would encourage the retention or reinstatement of boundary and landscaping features such as trees, hedging, soft landscaping and planting beds and low level walls. The conversion of front gardens to open, hard paved and featureless parking courts in front of houses is something should be discouraged.

Policy 11. Walking, Cycling and Horse-riding Access

New development should be open, inclusive and permeable where possible, adding to the network of routes through the village and allowing new developments to be integrated into rather than segregated from the existing village.

Gated developments are by definition exclusive, closed and unwelcoming and contribute nothing to the amenity of the village. Any further gated developments within the village should not be supported.

Many Thanks,

Stuart Meadows
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