



Parish Clerk  
Balcombe Parish Council  
Gleddoch House  
Stockcroft Road  
Balcombe  
West Sussex  
RH17 6LG

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date:  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Contact:

Fax:

Dear Parish Clerk,

### **Balcombe Parish Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the above named document.

Southern Water is the statutory wastewater and sewerage undertaker for Balcombe Parish. Southern Water has a statutory duty to serve new development, and is committed to providing the right wastewater infrastructure in the right place at the right time in collaboration with developers and the planning authority. The adopted Balcombe Neighbourhood Plan and adopted Mid Sussex Local Plan will inform Southern Water's investment planning. Adoption provides the planning certainty required to support investment proposals to Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator. Investment proposals are prepared every five years through the price review process. The next price review is in 2019, covering the investment period 2020 to 2025.

Please find following our response, which seeks support for the provision of utility infrastructure.

We hope that you find our response useful and that it will be taken into account in the next version of your Neighbourhood Plan. We would be grateful if you could keep us informed of any future progress.

Yours faithfully,

*Sarah Harrison*

Sarah Harrison  
Planning Analyst

## **New policy on the provision of infrastructure**

We could find no policies to provide for new or improved infrastructure to support development identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. One of the Core Planning Principles contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to *'proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs'*.

Although the Parish Council is not the planning authority in relation to wastewater development proposals, support for essential infrastructure is required at all levels of the planning system.

On this basis, we propose the following additional policy provision:

*New and improved utility infrastructure will be encouraged and supported in order to meet the identified needs of the community.*

*New residential and commercial development will be permitted only if sufficient infrastructure capacity is either available or can be provided in time to serve it.*