

# Wisborough Green Parish Council

## Developer Engagement Policy

1. Discussions with landowners, developers or their representatives are welcomed by the Parish Council at an early stage when set within the context of the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan (NP) or Neighbourhood Plan review.
2. The main purpose of a meeting is to learn more about the development proposal and its implications but not to form a view or make a decision. However, should a view or opinion be expressed, this will not bind the Parish Council to this opinion. Also, where no views are expressed this should not be seen as implicit support for the proposal.
3. Developers should ensure that they are familiar with the NP policies before requesting a meeting. Whether the Parish Council accepts the request may, however, depend on whether development complies, in principle, with the NP policies, or is a site put forward as part of a NP review. Where there is no immediate likelihood of planning permission being granted, the Parish Council may decline a request.
4. A decision to meet developers should be minuted either by the Parish Council or Neighbourhood Plan Review Group. If there is insufficient time to enable either the Parish Council or NP Review Group to consider such a request at one of its meetings, the Chairmen, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen, has delegated authority to respond on behalf of the respective group. This decision and the content of any meeting that may take place shall be noted at the next meeting.
5. At least 2 members of either the Parish Council or NP Review Group, as nominated representatives, to attend. The Parish Council Clerk will make the meeting arrangements and be in attendance to take notes. The format and length shall be agreed in advance and be limited to the development proposal. Meetings will normally take place in the Village Hall.
6. The meeting will be chaired by a Parish Councillor or NP Review Group member, who will set out the house rules. If Parish Councillors are present, the Chairman will explain the councillors' role including the important point that provided councillors approach the discussions with an open mind they can do so without fear of being accused of bias or facing legal challenge.
7. Individual councillors or members of the NP Review Group will not enter into separate discussions with developers.
8. A developer shall not make any comment or claim about the Parish Council's actual or perceived position in any planning applications or in any other documents relating to proposed developments in the parish without Parish Council agreement.

9. No hospitality shall be offered by a developer and none will be accepted by any representative of the Parish Council or NP Review Group.