

## Clerk - Godstone PC

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**From:** Taryn Pearson-Rose <TPearson-Rose@tandridge.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 25 June 2024 08:54  
**To:** Clerk - Godstone PC  
**Subject:** RE: Godstone Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Sarah,

Many thanks for the prompt and apologies for the delay.

Thank you for your letter at the end of May. I note the concerns and frustrations that you raise and acknowledge the hard work the group will have undertaken to date to produce a draft Neighbourhood Plan.

As you may already be aware, the Planning Policy Team is highly resource constrained and currently entirely composed of interim staff. We only have one part-time officer dedicated to Neighbourhood Planning, which limits the team's ability to deliver this work area. Over the last year, there has been significant interest in neighbourhood planning within the District, which has led to an increased workload for the officer. It has been agreed in the absence of additional capacity / resource to fund additional capacity, that Neighbourhood Plans would be processed in order of receipt. This was considered the fairest way forward for all concerned. Further reviewing Neighbourhood Plans is a highly detailed process that requires officers to immerse themselves in the specific plan, therefore within a part-time working week, it is not efficient to switch between plans. We are constantly reviewing the workload of the Planning Policy Team and seeking opportunities to add further capacity to the Neighbourhood Plan work and will look to backfill the current officer over the holiday period so there are no additional delays.

With regards to the SEA and HRA screening, the planning policy team has required input from a suitably qualified ecologist to carry out this exercise. Unfortunately, the Council has now been let down twice by the appointed ecologists for reasons outside of the Council's control. This has led to delay in carrying out this work. We have recently appointed a new ecologist and a new principal planner, who are working together to prepare the screening reports; and initial contact has now been made with Natural England. We aim to provide you with an update on the screenings in the near future.

I thank you for your patience in the interim.

Best wishes,  
Taryn

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**From:** Clerk - Godstone PC <clerk@godstone-pc.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 11:57 AM  
**To:** Taryn Pearson-Rose <TPearson-Rose@tandridge.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Godstone Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan