Dear Ms Atkinson,

**Ashover Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Draft**

This letter is formal confirmation of my letter of 11 July where I indicated that following taking legal advice the Council is now able to progress the submitted Neighbourhood Plan. It is also confirmation that the necessary legal requirements under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations have been met.

You will be aware that publicity and consultation on the Plan (in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)) is now underway.

I have received the Ashover Neighbourhood Development Plan accompanied by the documents required under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

I have considered the Statement of Basic Conditions submitted on behalf of Ashover Parish Council (March 2016) intended to demonstrate that the legal requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations are complied with, as set out in s2 of that Statement.

The Statement also includes specific reference to EU obligations (s3.4) and impact on a European Site (s3.5). With regard to this a screening report has been prepared and submitted (in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). The screening includes record of consultation with the environmental assessment consultation bodies specified in those regulations.

On the basis of this and in accordance with the above regulations I can confirm that the Plan does not require an environmental assessment. I concur with the view of the screening report; that no significant effects are likely as a result of the implementation of the Ashover Neighbourhood Plan. I also agree that there is no requirement to prepare a Habitats Regulation Assessment.

I am therefore satisfied that the statutory requirements set out in paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) have been met.
Please note, this decision relates solely to whether the documents submitted meet the basic conditions and so is without prejudice to the formal comments of the District Council as Local Planning Authority. The Council as Local Planning Authority will submit, during the formal consultation stage, a more detailed response on the policies or proposals. This will focus on ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan policies are unambiguous, can be applied, and are robust.

I look forward to progressing the Plan to Examination, and eventual approval by the District Council. If you have any questions please contact Richard Cooper at these offices.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Helen Fairfax
Planning Policy Manager,
North East Derbyshire District Council

This letter has been sent electronically, if you require a printed & signed copy, please contact the office.

c.c. Andrew Towlerton, Rachel Robson; yourLocale.