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12/11/2024

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

AUDLEY RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: REGULATION 16 RESPONSE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I respond to the 'Invitation to Submit Representations' in relation to the Regulation 16 of Audley Rural Parish Neighbourhood Plan. In this regard I have just one suggested modification to the Plan.

On pages 55 and 85 there is a mention of biodiversity net gain (BNG) under the heading of the 'Core Spatial Strategy', highlighting the requirement for a BNG of 10% in the Environment Act 2021 relating to developments. In this context I would suggest the addition of a clause to the effect that any BNG, that may be required as part of any development, must be located within the parish boundary and preferably adjacent to the site being developed.

Such a clause would be intended to prevent environmental offsetting elsewhere in the UK at the expense of Audley Rural Parish. I leave it to the authors of the neighbourhood plan to determine where in the document such a clause should be entered. However, I would also suggest that it is placed where it is least likely to be missed or misinterpreted. I hope this is in order.

Yours sincerely

Jim Austin.