



Communications:

In writing to Trish Hamilton, Parish Clerk, Minster-on-Sea Parish Council,
Love Lane, Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness, Kent ME12 2LP
By telephone to: (01795) 873831 [preferred] also 07748 967782
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Jill Peet
Interim Spatial Planning Manager – Planning Policy
Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street, Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 3HT

Dated: 3rd April 2020

Dear Ms Peet

Re: Interim Planning Policy for Holiday Homes

Please consider this to represent Minster-on-Sea Parish Council's formal response to the above consultation.

To summarise its position, Minster-on-Sea Parish Council objects in the strongest possible terms to the proposal for a revision to the current policy for holiday homes.

Its reasoning includes:-

Allowing the holiday homes to become residential and / or have extended or twelve-month occupancy would be disastrous. It would completely undermine the tourist industry in Minster-on-Sea and across the Isle of Sheppey as a whole, on which the economy relies. Furthermore, many of these units are in poorly accessible parts of the Island and any expansion in the term of occupation would be detrimental to the character of the countryside and rural settings. It would also impact on the Isle of Sheppey's infrastructure which cannot support its current population never mind an increase of potentially 30,000 people which this expansion would bring.

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council's insists that no changes should be made to Swale Borough Council's planning policy for holiday parks as set out in the adopted local plan, Bearing Fruits (July 2017) which is in place to ensure that holiday parks are not used as permanent (and in many cases sub-standard) housing in areas that present risk particularly of tidal flooding and / or coastal erosion and /or impact on the character, appearance and tranquillity of the countryside. As we continue to challenge proposals to build on our green open spaces, the Parish Council questions why Swale Borough Council would put forward a proposal that offers people residencies that fall below the standards expected and places them in situations of risk. A more realistic solution exists, instead of proliferating the use of holiday homes as sub-standard accommodation , remove the 0% Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) [lack of] obligation on the Isle of Sheppey and make it mandatory for developers to commit to providing an adequate proportion of affordable housing on each site.

I trust this clarifies the Parish Council's position and hope that the comments it has made will be taken into consideration when determining this matter.

Yours sincerely

**SENT UNSIGNED TO AVOID DELAY
SIGNED PAPER COPY POSTED**

Trish Hamilton
Parish Clerk