

Deputy Chief Executive, Paul Naylor CPFA MBA

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Mr Geoff Dear
Chilham's Future Delivery Board
(sent via email)

Date: 26 October 2010

Dear Geoff

Thank you for your email of 18 October and my apologies for the delay in replying.

For the record the Council is extremely pleased with the thorough, professional and inclusive approach adopted by the Chilham's Future Delivery Board (CDFB). This is an important local issue and it is only right that local people are at the centre of developing the proposals and expressing opinion on them.

While I cannot give any assurances that the preferred scheme will receive approval from the Borough and County Councils (as there will be important technical and planning matters to consider) both Councils' officers have been actively involved in the various workshops that have developed the scheme options. This said, the extent of local involvement and how opinion was tested locally will be matters to be taken into account by the Borough Council and the County Council at the stage either may be asked to consider a planning application.

The Borough Council's officers have also been pleased to provide advice and guidance to the CDFB on procedural matters relating to the next stage of consultation (i.e. testing local opinion about the three scheme options). My colleagues and I are satisfied that the principles of the consultation arrangement are sound. On matters of detail we have advised on the structure of the questionnaire and that it would be appropriate to ask for the name and address of the person completing it. Further, we consider that it would be appropriate for the questionnaire to seek confirmation from the person completing it of either a residential or business interest in the Parish of Chilham. We have advised that a consultation is not a formal ballot as such, but is nevertheless an appropriate means to test local opinion. We understand the CDFB has made arrangements for an independent person to oversee the consultation; this is another illustration to us of the importance the CDFB attaches to sound public consultation.



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Therefore I am pleased to provide this endorsement of the CFDB's approach and wish the CDFB well with the consultation on this important issue.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you need any further advice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Naylor', written in a cursive style.

Paul Naylor
Deputy Chief Executive

cc: Brigid Burnham – Head of Strategy, Partnerships and Communications
Valma Page – Senior Electoral Services Officer