

PART 2: Your Comments and Suggested Changes. *(Please use one Part 2 section for each comment that you wish to make)*

2a. Which part of the Deposit Plan are you commenting on?	
	CPRW 5 Sustainable Development
Policy number <i>(please specify)</i>	Ch 7.2 Sustainable Development esp. PCYFF1-3
Paragraph number <i>(please specify)</i>	Mainly 7.2.1-7.2.13
Proposals/ Inset Map <i>(please specify ref no.)</i>	
Constraints Map	
Appendices <i>(please specify)</i>	

2b. Are you objecting or supporting the Deposit Plan?			
Objecting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/>

2c. Please provide details of your representation on the Deposit Plan.

5. Sustainable Development

5.1 Context. We appreciate that emerging national policy sees ‘sustainable development’ as the main purpose of the land use planning system and requires the LDP to place these principles at the heart of its local strategy. We have no quarrel with the broad aims and aspirations of sustainable development. However, we question whether the proposed sustainable development policies can be applied effectively at the more local scale in the planning system. Permitted development rights are recognised for the least intrusive proposals, but the great majority of proposals where planning permission is required are for relatively small developments where it will be difficult to demonstrate sustainable development principles in any meaningful way.

5.2 We have a major concern that so much weight is to be placed on three generalised policies related to sustainable development (PCYFF1-3). We understand the intention to reduce duplication, but we think that the testing of all proposals against these overarching principles could readily become a bland ritual without much meaning in every Design and Access Statement, while at the same time planning decisions could become more arbitrary and less objective when tested against these generalised statements. The emphasis gained from explicit criteria attached to individual policies for each type of proposal will be lost. In many cases there will be no explicit policy, but only a requirement to refer to the broad sustainable development policies. ‘The baby may be thrown out with the bathwater’. The net effect risks being a less effective planning framework and poorer planning decisions.