

Lewes District Council

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557/11

Councillor Tony Nicholson

Conservative
Seaford East

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Barbara Bay,
The Planning Inspectorate,
South Downs National Park Inquiry Inspectorate,
4/02 Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Temple Quay,
BRISTOL
BS1 6PN

14th January 2008

Dear Madam,

South Downs National Park: Proposed deletion of land south of Chyngton Way Seaford

I write as a District Councillor for the East Ward of Seaford which encompasses the land south of Chyngton Way Seaford comprised in deletion 10 on map 28.

I am by profession a solicitor and former District Councillor on Charnwood Borough Council, albeit over 20 years ago, in which capacity I was for 2 years vice-chairman of the Highways and Planning Committee.

I have been provided with the proof of evidence of John Christopher Foxley representing Friends of Seaford Head(Ref 837), the letter from Councillor Rosemary Collicot on behalf of Seaford Town Council (Ref 554) and the letter from Lewes District Council as local Planning Authority(ref 590).

I wish to endorse the comments that have been made. They have been made by people steeped in the identity of Seaford Head.

In my opinion when a definition of the boundaries of something as significant as a National Park is being determined the effect of drawing a line on the land immediately outside the boundary has to be considered.

Whatever status is accorded to that land, its position is seriously weakened. There is no doubt in my mind that the removal of this land from the Park will result in it being developed for housing sooner or later. For that to happen would in my view be



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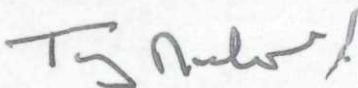
detrimental to the National Park. It will remove the poetry from the approach. The anticipation of arrival will be muted. The tree lined approach down Chyngton Way at the end of which one can currently see the start of the approach to Seaford Head will be lost.

It has been for others to discuss the technicalities at stake. This land has been called transitional land. If it is true, it is a transition between a built up area and an area not only of outstanding natural beauty but of iconic beauty. It lies at the entrance to one of the most photographed areas in the United Kingdom.

As a local district councillor I have obviously sought the views of my electorate. It is clear to me that the views that I express here and to which evidence is addressed elsewhere are views that carry widespread approval. It is my view that such opinions should not be disregarded.

If there is to be a National Park, then this area of transition land must be included. Not to do so will mean that in the end there will be no transition land at all.

Yours truly,

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

Councillor Tony Nicholson