Dear Madam Chair & Committee

As you may know, the National Park are nearing the final stages of compiling their local plan. The plan encompasses a number of villages in the Lewes District Council area, including all of those in my ward. I've been following the building of this plan over the last few years as the National Park releases each iteration. Just prior to their recent planning meeting the National Park held some confidential meetings with the parish council in Kingston. As a consequence, the residents and I were unaware of what changes the National Park were about to introduce to their plan. Up until this time there were no concerns for the people of Kingston in the draft local plan. Consequently, it came as a bit of a shock to the residents and myself as the district councillor when a National Park officer who was in attendance at the village assembly in Kingston on 28 April 2017 advised people of the Park's choice of a development site for some 11 houses and a gypsy/traveller site, both of which had not been previously included in the various drafts of the National Park plan!

I wrote to the director of planning at the National Park following the meeting, and eventually received a reply, which did not address the concerns I raised, namely:

How could they turn a previous planning permission for the temporary siting of a caravan on the ridge at Kingston into a designated Gypsy/Traveller site without going through proper consultations?

How could they designate a development for some 11 houses without even some of the owners of the land actually being informed?

The 11 houses proposed by the National Park are situated in a 'back land' development location along a private road/track used by existing householders to access their own driveways. How could the National Park propose a development without consulting these householders or indeed understanding the legal situation with regard to the private roadway?

Under what legislation was the National Park operating when it required the parish council to keep the above-mentioned matters secret?

Earlier this month, the National Park approved the draft plan, including both the gypsy and housing site. Somewhat of a fait accompli for the residents in Kingston! I quite realise that the plan will come out for public consultation in September, but, as I've already been told by the National Park that they're unwilling to accept all but the most minor amendments, it seems likely that the plan for Kingston will go forward as it stands to its final stages and approval by the Secretary of State.

My questions to the District Council Planning Applications Committee are as follows:

Would the chairman and members of the planning applications committee support me in requesting the National Park to:

1. Undertake to specially consult the residents in the village about their concerns over these two developments by way of meetings in Kingston with SDNPA staff present preceded by the distribution of leaflets to all householders in addition to the normal consultation process. This will allow the people of Kingston to challenge the decision by the National Park to include these two developments at this late stage in their local plan.

2. Attend a meeting with the Lewes District Council to explain how they have arrived at these decisions and work with ourselves to review all the development options in Kingston for housing.

3. Review the planning situation with regard to the, so called, 'gypsy/traveller site' and return the designation to a 'temporary siting of a caravan in relation to The Pump House' being the main property in the same ownership.