

## **LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION STATEMENT**

**POLICY SP7  
LINDA ARTHUR  
RN/616**

### **POLICY SP7 SEPARATION OF SETTLEMENTS**

Our statement is in relation to Policy SP7, with which we whole heartily agree in principle, but in order for this policy to be effective, it needs to be more positively and proactively prepared, looking more specifically at examples.

We would like to see a firmer commitment to defined buffer zones or strategic gaps around settlements. In Policy MC140 Page 281 Strategic Policy Maps of the Ashford Green Corridor, there are only indicative arrows showing potential future additions to the Green Corridor.

Policy SP7, to be effective, needs to clearly identify future buffer zones.

In the supporting text to Policy SP7, there is mention of an existing buffer zone in Kingsnorth. For example, we would like to see a commitment of a future buffer zone to protect the character and identity of Mersham from encroaching development. There is overwhelming support for the land between Highfield Lane and Blind Lane, known as WE15 and land to the east of Cheeseman's Green Lane to become a buffer zone and this deserves to be included in the supporting text.

To conclude, Policy SP7 in order to be effective, needs to define specific areas where the green corridor will provide a buffer zone for settlements.

6.3.18