INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE WESTCOTT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Derek Stebbing BA (Hons), Dip EP, MRTPI

Annex 3 - Note to Parties Participating in the Hearing Session

I would like to set out in advance the parameters for the conduct of the hearing session I have convened, to be held on **Wednesday, 23rd September 2026 commencing at 2.00 p.m.** It is important we all go into the session with a shared expectation and understanding of how the day will proceed, and exercise mutual courtesy in this respect. The key points I would ask participants to observe are as follows:

- It is wholly within my purview to determine how the hearing is to be conducted.

- In this instance, the purpose of hearing oral representations is that I consider it necessary to ensure adequate examination of the identified issues.

- This session will be run as a round table discussion. It will not be akin to a formal public inquiry on a planning appeal. Similarly, it is not a local plan examination session, and the requirements of a Neighbourhood Plan Examination are not to be confused with the more investigative scrutiny required to determine whether a local plan is 'sound'.

- I will lead on the questions raised under each issue. I do not anticipate any need for cross-examination. I have set the issues out clearly in my agenda and the discussion will be confined to these matters.

- I do not anticipate that further written evidence will be required to deal with the issues I have identified from my assessment of Policy WNDP7 of the draft Plan submitted for examination, its supporting documents and the representations that were made at the Focused Consultation stage undertaken during June/July 2026. However, if such evidence is to be produced it should be brief (to not exceed 1,500 words) and it should be submitted to Mole Valley District Council **by 21st September 2026**. Any such material should be placed on the District Council and Westcott Village Forum websites and a copy should be sent direct to enquiries@intelligentplans.co.uk

- Participants are not exercising a statutory right to be heard. I will determine the amount of time that is given for a participant to speak. All participants, including any advocates in attendance, will be treated on an equal basis.

- My aim is to have sufficient understanding and information on the identified issues to enable me to come to a view on those issues and prepare my report for the local Planning Authority.

I thank you for your anticipated co-operation on the day.

Derek Stebbing
Examiner
8 September 2026