Dear

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR MALTON AND NORTON**

Malton and Norton Town Councils have recently completed a statutory 6 week consultation on their draft Neighbourhood Plan for Malton and Norton, on which you were consulted. As a minimum, you should have received a plan summary in the post – I hope that this was the case.

In recognition of the importance of horse racing to Malton and Norton, the plan includes a chapter on ‘The Horse Racing Industry’, which contains 4 policies which were intended to safeguard the industry locally and to support and promote its tourism potential. The chapter is attached here for your information.

In response to the consultation, several comments were received on the ‘Horse Racing Industry’ chapter and in particular in relation to Policy HRI1 (Protection of Horse Racing Stables), stating that the protection measures proposed in the policy “may have an adverse effect on the industry” and put “a potential millstone round the neck of stables”. As the questionnaire format which yielded these comments did not collect any respondent data, it is unclear whether these comments come from within the local industry.

Clearly, the town councils are concerned by these comments and in no way wish to put in place policies which will have an adverse effect on the industry. As a result, they have resolved to consult local industry stakeholders further via this letter and would very much welcome any detailed comments you may have on the chapter of the plan attached, and in particular on Policy HRI1. **Comments by Friday 11th June would be greatly appreciated.**

The councils are also considering holding an online Zoom Forum for local industry representatives so that the thinking behind the plan’s policies can be further explained and to give representatives the opportunity to pose questions to councillors and consultant. **Please let me know as soon as possible if you would be interested in attending such a forum and if so, what time of week and day would suit you best.**

I hope that you can find the time to give this letter and the Neighbourhood Plan your attention. Please be assured that the town councils are keen to support the horse racing industry through the plan and certainly do not want to introduce policies which will be of no benefit.

Yours sincerely

Tim Hicks

Deputy Town Clerk

Malton Town Council & Norton on Derwent Town Council