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We are writing to suggest **URGENT** action in relation to changes to the **National Planning Policy Framework**.

The Government is currently consulting on changes to the Framework. The consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-revised-national-planning-policy-framework>

The deadline for responses is 10 May.

We have particular concerns about Chapter 2 'Achieving Sustainable Development'

While CPRE welcomes protection for Neighbourhood Plans, Footnote 9 proposes that this protection extends for only two years after referendum. Neighbourhood Plans are supposed to cover a 15-20 year planning period. It will be impossible for a town or parish to review and update its Neighbourhood Plan every 2 years. Every 5 years would be much more realistic. ***We think that the 2-year period specified in footnote 9 should therefore be increased to 5 years in line with proposals for Local Plan Reviews.***

If you agree, it would be very helpful if your Council (or if insufficient time its Chair) would make an appropriate response to the MHCLG consultation, which ends on 10 May 2018.

To respond, please complete Question 4 of the attached document stating that **footnote 9 should give protection for Neighbourhood Plans for 5 years from referendum** and send to:

Email to: planningpolicyconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Write to:

Planning Policy Consultation Team
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
3rd floor, South East
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

It would also be helpful if you could share your view with your MP. Most Sussex MPs claim to be strong supporters of neighbourhood planning.

You may also want to respond to other issues as part of the Consultation. **We are also concerned about proposals for a new 'Housing Delivery Test'** which will create the need for 'buffer' allocations of more houses if developers do not build houses fast enough to meet the local authority housing requirement. This could mean more strategic allocations which over-ride a neighbourhood plan. **We are also concerned about how the 'presumption in favour of development'** will create a 'tilted balance' which over-rides many policies for countryside protection. If you would like further information about this please contact: info@cpresussex.org.uk