Parish Clerk
Mitcheldean Parish Council

BY EMAIL ONLY: clerk@mitcheldeancouncil.co.uk

17 October 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Mitcheldean Neighbourhood Plan – Draft

Thank you for the notification of the 24 August 2018 consulting The Coal Authority on the above NDP.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body which works to protect the public and the environment in coal mining areas. Our statutory role in the planning system is to provide advice about new development in the coalfield areas and also protect coal resources from unnecessary sterilisation by encouraging their extraction, where practical, prior to the permanent surface development commencing.

As you will be aware the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the current defined coalfield.

According to the Coal Authority Development High Risk Area Plans, there are recorded risks from past coal mining activity in the form of mine entries and likely historic unrecorded coal workings at shallow depth.

If Neighbourhood Plans allocate sites for future development in such areas then consideration needs to be given to how development proposals will respond to these risks to surface stability in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. In addition any allocations on the surface coal resource will need to consider the impacts of mineral sterilisation.

On the basis that the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any new sites for development we have no specific comments to make.

In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) please continue to consult The Coal Authority on planning matters using the specific email address of planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Melanie Lindsley

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