Dear Ms Glancy,

Runnymede Borough Council 2030 Local Plan Examination: Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the new Local Plan. I do so, on behalf of residents’ associations in the north of the Borough of Runnymede, from the point of view of the continuing threat of gravel quarrying and its consequences in this area. The Inspector raises a number of matters and questions. Here I restrict myself to just one.

**Matter 3: Overall Spatial Strategy – 3.1(c): “Does it [the Plan] take proper account of potential impacts on the natural environment, landscape, flood risk, air quality and other matters and provide for mitigation where necessary?”**

1. **Flood risk** is a topic both in the Sustainable Development Policy SD1 (page 28, paragraph 5.15) and in the Managing Flood Risk Policy EE13 (page 138). After the devastating floods of December 2013 to February 2014, reducing flood risk should surely be the top priority. The wording in the Policy could be strengthened: for example, to “Any proposed development or scheme which could adversely affect the sensitive water-table or increase flood risk anywhere in Runnymede will be recommended for rejection”.

2. **Air quality** appears under the Health and Wellbeing Policy SL1 (pages 62-63) and at the Environmental Protection Policy EE2 (page 118). We are concerned about airborne ultra-fine particulate matter in a range of sizes as small as PM0.1 (diameter 0.1 micrometres) seriously affecting human health, particularly in regard to our school-children. It would be an improvement to include in a Policy a mention of monitoring: for example, “The Council will continue to monitor air quality across the Borough, with particular regard to the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Any proposal for development which could decrease air quality will be recommended for refusal”.

While there is passing mention of minerals, in various places in the document, this subject is not specifically addressed. Surprisingly, sand/gravel working is not considered as a Threat or Challenge in the list on pages 22 and 23. And yet if Surrey County Council were ever minded to grant planning permission to quarry in north Runnymede, this would be a total
‘game-changer’: not only for the natural environment, landscape, flood risk and air quality; but also for human health, dust, noise, vibration, heavy lorry movements, waiting times at local level-crossings, road safety, subsidence of local buildings, and visual intrusion in the Green Belt.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Moreton Moore, DSc, FInstP
Past Mayor of Runnymede Borough

32 Whitehall Lane, Egham, Surrey. TW20 9NF