SCG6 relating to the land covered by policy SOP1: Sopley Camp (Merryfield Park) in the Local Plan Part 2 Submission Document has been agreed between the site owners and the Council. The boundary of the site the statement refers to is that defined in Map SOP1 of the Submission Document (S1).

The following points are agreed:

1. The site is within the Green Belt.

2. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out policies for development within Green Belt. Development that is not inappropriate in Green Belt is defined in paragraphs 89 and 90 of the NPPF.

3. The site is a previously developed site (brownfield land), and therefore point 6 of paragraph 89 of the NPPF is of particular relevance to the Sopley Camp/Merryfield Park site. This allows for the partial or complete redevelopment of the previously developed land provided the development would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.

4. Paragraph 89 of the NPPF does not define or seek to limit the types of development that are either appropriate or inappropriate where point 6 of paragraph 89 applies. In addition to development specifically identified as appropriate uses in Green Belt in the NPPF, redevelopment of the Sopley Camp/Merryfield Park could include residential, business, training/educational, and recreational uses, or similar, provided the development would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.

5. For the reasons set out above there is no need for a site specific policy relating to the Sopley Camp/Merryfield Park site and its future, as it is agreed its future can be dealt with appropriately under the National Planning Policy Framework.

Accordingly, the Council wish to withdraw policy SOP1. The Council’s proposed change to paragraphs 5.16 – 5.18 of the Plan relating to the Sopley Camp site is set out below:

**Proposed Change:**
Delete policy SOP1 and amend paragraphs 5.16 to 5.18 to read as follows:

"Sopley"

**Sopley Camp**

5.16 Sopley Camp (also known as Merryfield Park) is a site of some 11 hectares located north of Derritt Lane to the west of Bransgore, but in Sopley Parish. It was established in World War II as the residential camp for RAF Sopley. Of the original buildings, 91 remain on the site and have been used for various purposes. The site has been privately owned for some time. It lies within the Green Belt. Its ‘lawful use’ has been established to be a ‘training or rest camp on an occasional basis including day and residential training, education and activity courses and ancillary uses.’
5.17 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out policies for the Green Belt. On sites within the Green Belt previously developed sites may be partially or completely redeveloped where development would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development. The site’s future will be considered against the policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, having regard to the adopted Core Strategy.

5.18 Possible future uses could include residential, business, training/educational, and recreational uses, or similar, provided the development would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.

5.18b Proposals for this site will only be considered in the context of a comprehensive scheme for the whole site. Site owners will be encouraged to involve the local community in the preparation of the comprehensive scheme. It is considered that the eastern part of the site, closest to Bransgore, is likely to be the most appropriate part of the site to accommodate built development, in order to protect the openness of the Green Belt. Development proposals should ensure that the rural character of Derritt Lane is maintained. “