

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE HEDNESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: BOB YUILLE MSc DipTP MRTPI

Sarah Jones
Principal Planning Policy Officer
Cannock Chase Council

Peter Harrison
Clerk to Hednesford Town Council

Examination Ref: 01/RV/HNP

23 April 2018

Dear Mr Harrison and Ms Jones

HEDNESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for examination, I would like to clarify several initial procedural matters.

1. Examination Documentation

I can confirm that I am satisfied that I have received a complete submission of the draft Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to undertake the examination.

Subject to my detailed assessment of the draft Plan, I have not at this initial stage identified any very significant and obvious flaws in the Plan that might lead me to advise that the examination should not proceed.

2. Site Visit

I intend to undertake a site visit to the neighbourhood plan area during the week commencing 7th May 2018. This will assist in my assessment of the draft Plan, including the issues identified in the representations.

The site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. It is very important that I am not approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice my independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

3. Written Representations

At this stage, I consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing. However, I will reserve the option to convene a hearing should a matter(s) come to light where I consider that one is necessary to ensure the adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

4. Further Clarification

I may have a number of questions seeking clarification on various matters, which I will wish to put to the Hednesford Town Council and Cannock Chase Council (or any other interested party). If this is necessary, I will set the questions out in a separate letter.

5. Examination Timetable

As you will be aware, the intention is to examine the plan (including conduct of the site visit) with a view to providing a draft report (for 'fact checking') within 4-6 weeks of submission of the draft Plan.

I see no reason at this juncture to consider that I will not meet the anticipated timetable, subject to my not needing to seek any further written clarification. Once I have conducted the site visit, the IPE office team will provide an indication of the expected date for receipt of my draft report.

If you or the qualifying body have any process questions related to the conduct of the examination, which you would like me to address, please do not hesitate to contact the office team in the first instance.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this letter are placed on the Town Council and Local Authority's websites.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

Bob Yuille

Examiner