

From: nikki hamilton

Subject: North Hertfordshire Local Plan

Date: 17 May 2022 at 09:18:47 BST

To: Simon Berkeley <simon.berkeley@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>, "louise@poservices.co.uk" <louise@poservices.co.uk>

Dear Mr Berkeley and the Planning Inspectorate

It is with great regret that I am writing to you on behalf of wildlife organisations, residents and communities but I am doing so with serious concern about what has come to light over recent weeks.

You are already aware that we complained about the shoddy way North Herts 'apparently' publicised their intentions in certain areas a number of years ago and that thousands and thousands of residents didn't even know of some of the proposed sites and therefore were unable to become involved in the local plan process. With such a huge amount of green belt put forward within one plan and having been involved now in every single process of all other plans within Hertfordshire; the small amount of objections and responses that came in to the North Herts Local Plan process is the consequence of their actions, or should I say lack of actions. Just recently Hertsmere's local plan has gone back to the drawing board as the LPA received 20,000 responses as numerous proposed developments in their plan were objected against – a statement "Our residents have clearly rejected the draft local plan. Now the council must reject it too. Whilst residents and councillors understand the need for new homes, this potential decimation of large swathes of green belt has been too much for local people and local councillors to accept." Why has NHDC not listened to their

residents and communities, it is all very sad that they seem to be the only LPA not listening and adhering to the NPPF where this is concerned.

This is not the only concern of ours when it comes to NHDC; early on in the local plan process when Herts & Middx Badger Group objected to GA2 and advised the council of the only way forward with the site would be to decrease it in size and protect a certain area – they totally ignored this and allowed the site to be doubled in size incorporating the very habitat that HMBG are so concerned about. As has been put forward in documentation; due to the huge density of badgers and the setts having increased in size even further within the area over recent months, we can see no way that mitigation would be able to be put in place and laws would be broken if the site now went ahead and even if that had of been possible, if GA2 had been decreased in size as was advised back in 2015 – mitigation would have meant ongoing maintenance by NHDC, a council who has even removed dog poo bins in Ashby to save costs. On top of this, a CPW is due to be placed on the woodlands/land within and surrounding the proposed site by Hertfordshire Police; which is in response to the recent wildlife crimes that took place by contractors instructed by the site managed.

On top of all of this, it was with great alarm that I read in our local newspaper that the proposed site of Baldock has now all been agreed with varying parties and will now come forward over coming years “and work closely with North Herts Council as it adopts its new Local Plan later this year.” I am then sent the planning portfolio for the Baldock site that has been put together by Urban & Civic plc. I am sorry to ask Mr Berkeley, but does everybody know something we don't? I for one have given up several years of my life due to this abhorrent plan where some of the sites have no regard for current residents, communities and bio diversity and with specific thought to GA2, if the local plan is definitely being adopted – we would really appreciate a ‘heads up’ so to speak as we will need to plan taking further action. I really

hope that the truth is that some people are just getting ahead of themselves and that your decision in regards to the local plan and some of the sites within it have not yet been decided/finalised.

I thank you for your time Mr Berkeley and would really appreciate if, if you could put my mind at ease.

Yours most sincerely

N Hamilton

On behalf of residents, communities, Saving North Herts Green Belt, Wildlife Welfare, Herts & Middx Badger Group

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