

**Examination of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 – 2031**

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Stephen McPartland MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

By email only

11 November 2020

Dear Mr McPartland

**Land South of Heath Lane, Codicote**

Thank you for your letter of yesterday regarding a planning application for development on the above land (reference 18/02722/FP), which is referenced as Site CD5 in the local plan.

I understand from your letter that this application is to be considered by the Planning Committee of North Hertfordshire District Council on 19 November. I note your views about this, particularly that determining this application now would be premature, and would undermine the local plan process and the involvement that your constituents have had in that. I am, obviously, aware of the engagement local residents and others have had throughout my examination of the local plan, and I will take all the representations made into account.

You ask that I urge the Council to not determine planning applications relating to land that, like Site CD5, is in the Green Belt ahead of the local plan examination process being concluded. However, you will appreciate that the determination of planning applications is a statutory function of the Council and as such is a matter for it, rather than me, including the timing of making such decisions. My role is strictly limited to the consideration of the legal compliance and soundness of the local plan. It would be outside the restricted scope of my appointment as the examining Inspector to seek to influence how or when the Council determines planning applications, or to otherwise comment on them in any way.

I am very aware of the relationship between Site CD5 and others proposed through the local plan for development in Codicote, particularly in relation to the delivery of school places. If the aforementioned planning application is, or any others are, granted permission, I will take into consideration, as and if necessary, any potential effect of this on the soundness of the local plan, including with regard to education provision.

I hope that this helps to explain the position.

Yours sincerely

*Simon Berkeley*

Inspector