

Pirton Neighbourhood Plan Examination

Questions of clarification from the Examiner to the Parish Council and NHDC

Having completed my initial review of the Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan), I would be grateful if both Councils could kindly assist me as appropriate in answering the following questions which either relate to matters of fact or are areas in which I seek clarification or further information. Please do not send or direct me to evidence that is not already publicly available.

1. Two representations from the Health and Safety Executive and Herts County Council refer to the Wymondley NP. Please can NHDC confirm that these are sent to me or made in error and whether any representations were received from these organisations in respect of the PNP. I appreciate you may need to check with the organisations before coming back to me.
2. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination dated April 2016 has been submitted. Please i) confirm which version of the PNP was assessed, ii) whether the statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were specifically consulted on the Screening Determination, iii) whether any reply was received from either the Environment Agency or Historic England and if so please send me copies of those replies and iv) confirm that publicity for the determination made has been undertaken in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (EAPPR).
3. Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) set out two additional basic conditions to those set out in primary legislation. Only Regulation 32 is applicable to neighbourhood plans and this states “The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site¹ or a European offshore marine site² either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.” Please advise me what assessment has been carried out in respect of this basic condition or provide me with sufficient information to enable me to consider whether this basic condition can be complied with.
4. Please update me on the latest position in relation to any planning applications on the site referred to as PT2 in the PNP. Please also draw my attention to any other applications or appeals for sites in the Parish of relevance to housing numbers or housing supply or send me the latest relevant information in this respect.
5. The PNP uses the proposed village development boundary for Pirton from an earlier version of the emerging Local Plan as I understand it. This seems to have been revised in the submission version of the emerging Local Plan. Is this correct and would there be benefit in updating the village development boundary to align with the emerging Local Plan whilst recognising this is subject to examination? If not, why not?
6. In relation to the proposed Local Green Spaces (LGS) subject to Policy PNP 6, it is helpful for the proposed areas to be shown on a map on page 32 of the PNP, but I must admit

¹ As defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012

² As defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007

to finding it quite hard to locate each of the ten proposed spaces on it. Would it be possible to indicate on the map where each proposed LGS is please or to provide more detailed maps of each proposed area so I can be certain to view the correct areas on my site visit.

7. On a related matter, a representation from Herts County Council suggests that the map and the table on pages 32 and 33 respectively do not tie up. Is this correct? If so, please let me know what the differences are and how this should be remedied.

It may be the case that on receipt of your anticipated assistance on these matters that I may need to ask for further clarification or that further queries will occur as the examination progresses. Please note that this list of clarification questions is a public document and that your answers will also be in the public domain. Both my questions and your responses should be placed on the Councils' websites as appropriate.

With many thanks.
Ann Skippers
10 October 2017