

Boundary Cottage
Hockley Road
Hatton
Warwick
CV35 7HQ
25th June 2014

Warwick District Council
Planning Department

Dear Sir,

New Local Plan Consultation Response, June 2014

I write to object to the New Local Plan which is being adopted by Warwick District Council.

1. Soundness

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has recently published population figures which are 29% below their previous figures used in preparation of this WDC Local Plan.

It is simply **not credible** to continue with this plan based on outdated information with such a wide disparity in the data.

With such pressures on land, Green Belt and infrastructure it would be much more reasonable to work to a lower housing need figure and periodically review the plan.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires 'exceptional circumstances' to allow development in the Green Belt. With regard to the proposed housing development site at Hatton Park, no such special circumstances exist. This is proven by the very recent Housing Needs Survey conducted by the Parish Council and the Warwickshire Rural Communities Council which returned a need for a maximum of 12 homes which could be accommodated by village infill or already identified brown field sites within the parish. The Hatton Parish Plan (2013) also documents major opposition to development in the parish.

There are grave concerns about the lack of detail and lack of proper planning for infrastructure needs associated with all the allocated development in the Local Plan.

Many of the schools and roads are already full and sufficient planning and money has not been allocated to resolve the additional pressures that the planned development would bring. Indeed any plans that would solve the problems would in themselves ruin the local area and be completely unsustainable (NPPF requires development to be sustainable).

2. Consultation

The public consultation process has been very poor.

Local drop in sessions at village halls etc were very well attended by the public.

However the experience at Hatton Park was that there were some 150-200 members of the public but only two WDC staff who were unable to provide any detailed answers or definitions.

Many attendees did not get the chance to talk to the WDC staff and left feeling that the process was a waste of time.

Very little notice appears to have been taken of the formal public responses and certainly no reasons given by WDC as to why these responses were dismissed.

Some revisions were made in response to consultation, but at Hatton Park, for example, the proposed housing site (H28) was revised in a major way, with area and housing density changed, without further consultation on such significant changes.

I trust that my comments will be made available to the Planning Inspector.

A. Burrows.