

Dear Sir or Madam

I'm pleased to forward below a joint response from Baginton and Bubbenhall Parish Councils to the consultation on the Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan:

Baginton and Bubbenhall Parish Councils note the comments and objections made by Warwick DC at Regulation 16 consultation stage to the submission version of the NDP. These comments largely relate to sections of the supporting text and to 2 Policies BAG1 and BAG7.

The Parish Councils are very disappointed that these comments and objections have been submitted at such a late stage in the NDP's preparation. Written comments were provided by WDC during and after the Regulation 14 consultation and a meeting was held with officers at WDC's offices to discuss and agree a way forward with the NDP. The comments at that stage were largely focused on the policies and supporting text relating to the proposed changes to the Green Belt and housing allocations in Baginton. The Draft NDP was prepared at a time when the emerging new Local Plan was still in preparation and the proposals for Green Belt changes around Baginton were highly controversial and widely objected to by local residents. It was argued by the Steering Group that it was important to the NDP process (particularly leading up to Submission) that the PC continued to maintain objections to the proposed Green Belt changes and that this should be reflected in the supporting text. In this way residents could see that the PCs continued to work on their behalf and were reflecting and responding to their concerns. It was understood that WDC agreed that provided the supporting text referred specifically to local peoples' and the PC's opinions, then it was a matter of fact, and so could be retained in the submission plan.

Policy wording and supporting text were amended at this stage, in consultation with WDC.

However, sections of the NDP relating to economic development were not discussed and unfortunately, written comments suggesting amendments were not submitted to the Parish Councils for consideration. In addition there was some specific advice that remaining silent / not having a policy on a difficult issue would be acceptable and indeed preferable to a policy that was in conflict with the emerging Local Plan.

The 2 Parish Councils now wish to move forward with the Plan to Examination.

In view of the comments and objections submitted by WDC at Regulation 16, and in the likely event that the new Local Plan will be adopted by WDC before or around the same time as the NDP Examination, the 2 Parish Councils would like to set out their responses for consideration by the Examiner:

1. The Parish Councils, subject to circumstances at the time, would WDC's proposed changes to the supporting text relating to the Green Belt and the PC's and local residents' objections to the proposed changes. This could be done in the interests of updating the NDP.
2. Objective 3 - The Parish Councils would consider amending / deleting text to reflect the most up to date position.
3. Objective 7 - see above. The PC's would prefer to remain silent about the strategic employment site. Other policies in the NDP should assist with guiding development in the NDP area overall.
4. BAG1(4) - this would be a matter for the Examiner to decide.
5. The Views (and Map) could be amended following consideration by the Examiner.
6. BAG7 - The Policy could be amended to refer to mitigation measures as suggested. The Parish Councils would welcome further advice on this from WDC and the Examiner.

Overall the PC's would like to set out that the above changes could be made through the Examination process, and that the preferred approach is therefore to continue to Examination, rather than withdraw the NDP.

The above comments are submitted for consideration.

Stephen Haynes
Chair Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Sent from my iPad

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