

From: bill welch [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 December 2015 09:19
To: Programme Officer
Subject: RE: Amended Consultation Period for Publication of follow up work

Categories: Red Category

Dear Ms.Belding,

I refer to you e mail and to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk's response to the Inspector's Questions- issue 14 Castle Acre [g22].

I will make my points by reference to the Council's response to the Inspector.

Para 1.5. 'The Council propose to modify both the settlement description and the site description and justification section to provide clarity and address identified issues.'

It is indeed a fact that the original site allocations pre submissions statement which was approved by various Council bodies including the Executive and Full Council was not only unclear but also was full of mistakes . Despite the protestations of the Council's officers all those Council Bodies approved the matter to hand on the basis of a deeply flawed report.[I will follow this e mail with a copy of a letter which I have sent to the Council's chief Executive which sets this matter out in some detail] However it just needs to be said that the Council's formal decision was taken on the basis of a highly misleading report. The fact that documents that preceded it may have been correct is irrelevant. The officers who claim to understand the site should have checked the report and the members who visited the site should have realised that it was wrong.The errors would have been significant in consideration of the matter. The fact that no officers or Members spotted these errors suggests that the whole matter was given scant consideration and regarded as a 'fait accompli'.

The Council has failed to comply with Ombudsman's axioms 22 and 24. To quote the Ombudsman, ' Where reports have been criticised in investigations by the Ombudsman this has commonly been because there were significant omissions or inaccurate or misleading statements.'

With regard to the Council's revised text I would observe as follows;

G22.1 The revised text does not alter the incorrect statement that Castle Acre 'is five miles south of Swaffham'.

G22.7 The revised text , having deleted the incorrect statement that the land is not in agricultural production does not include the important fact that it is.

The revised text still states 'other than boundary hedgerows there are no landscape features on the site'.That is clearly incorrect as elsewhere the site is defined thus;' the site is partly developed although the majority of the site is agricultural land'.

The revised text still fails to make it clear that part of the site [and what part of the site] is in the conservation area.

The nature of these errors and omissions is now, I suspect ,of little relevance but it does emphasise my point that the whole matter has been treated in such a way to suggest that little care, attention and consideration has been given to this matter in general. Not least it is important that matters such as this which have significant impact on local people are seen to have been dealt with and are fully justified

In this instance I do not believe that is the case and I maintain that the whole question of the Castle Acre allocation should be reviewed.

Please bring this to the attention of the Inspector.

Perhaps you could let me know that you have this e mail.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Welch

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Subject: Amended Consultation Period for Publication of follow up work
Date: Wed, 16 Dec 2015 09:09:38 +0000

Dear All,

N.B: -Please note the amended / extended consultation period, to allow for Christmas.

During some of the Examination Hearing Sessions, the Inspector requested that the Council produced follow-up work ('homework') on particular issues. This included clarifying the Council's policy approach, seeking further information and in some cases suggesting amendments to the Plan.

The Council has now completed this work and has submitted it to the Inspector for information/consideration on Friday 11 December 2015.

[Inspectors Examination page](#)

The Inspector has requested **all comments should be received by Friday 15 January 2016 at 4pm**. This consultation period of just over four weeks includes an allowance for the Christmas period. It will enable people to respond to the information/ discussion within these papers. **It is important to note that the Inspector will only consider comments made by an individual / organisation that participated in that particular Hearing Session, and that no late submissions will be accepted.** The Hearing Sessions Agenda and Attendee list can be viewed here

[http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/September%20AGENDAS%20for%20resumption%20\(venue%20change\).pdf](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/September%20AGENDAS%20for%20resumption%20(venue%20change).pdf)

Next steps... As a result of this follow up work there may be proposed amendments / modifications to the Plan. These are still subject to Council approval, and following this would be publicised for consultation in February 2016

Julie Belding Temporary for Clare Cobley

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