

WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk, Mrs Sara D Porter

42 Church Road ~ Watlington Village Hall ~ Watlington ~ King's Lynn ~ Norfolk ~ PE33 0HE

(Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm)

www.watlington.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

28th September 2023

Mr M Burton
Principal Planner
BCKL&WN
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1EX

Dear Mr Burton

Local Plan 2016-2036 Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

The Council has now had time to reflect on the Topic Paper – Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy (August 2023) and writes to support the deletion of the 'Growth Key Rural Service Centres' and in particular to redesignate Watlington as Key Rural Service Centre.

In principle the Council supports the methodology for reviewing the Settlement Hierarchy and agrees wholeheartedly with the comment "the limited growth that is proposed in Watlington reflects the lack of facilities to support the provision of a significantly greater number of houses and jobs without substantial investment in infrastructure, which is not planned." Watlington is a modest village which has grown disproportionately to the resources available.

As a result, the Council would go further and state that with 81 new dwellings approved for build in Watlington, in the past 5 years alone the windfall allocation of 27 will only put further pressure on those limited resources. Whilst 4.28% growth sounds a relatively small number in real terms, if the windfall number of 27 is realised, Watlington would have seen an increase of nearer to 10% of total households (1162) in the village during the life of the plan.

Following correspondence dated 29th August 2023 (email below) you advised that the Council should resubmit the letter dated 17th February 2023 in relation to the Local Plan Examination, which has been done.

Finally with regards to any future hearing of the Local Plan Examination by the Inspector, the Watlington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee would request the opportunity to voice its reasoning for the context and content of the plan. At the previous hearing, the Neighbourhood Plan was discussed at length by everyone except those that had written it, and this should not happen again.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sara D Porter
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Watlington Parish Council

CC: *All Parish Councillors*
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

From: Michael Burton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:01 AM
To: Martin Berliner [REDACTED]
Cc: Timothy Jones [REDACTED] Planning Policy email [REDACTED] Katie Evans [REDACTED] Watlington Parish Council
[REDACTED] Louise Cornell [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Watlington Neighbourhood Plan examination - additional Regulation 16 representations from extended consultation

Dear Martin

Thank you for your letter of 21st August. I note the content regarding the ongoing Local Plan examination, and the status of Watlington within the settlement hierarchy therein. In the case of Watlington, I would advise that the strategic policies that provide the framework for the Neighbourhood Plan are set out in the 2011 Core Strategy and 2016 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/23/current_local_plan) which define Watlington as a Key Rural Service Centre, and **not** the emerging replacement Local Plan.

Regarding the ongoing Local Plan examination, we are looking to consult on several new evidence base documents (together with consequent suggested Main Modifications) next month, including proposed changes to policies LP01 and LP02 (Spatial Strategy/ Settlement Hierarchy). You will have an opportunity to formally comment then, so I advise that you resubmit this letter when we publish the evidence base/ suggested Main Modifications documents.

Meanwhile, I will keep you posted about ongoing progress with the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan examination. Please do not hesitate to get back to me if you have any further queries.

Regards and best wishes

Michael Burton, Principal Planner



Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk

