



Huntingdon Town Council

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Town Clerk: Philip Peacock

Andrew Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI
Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd

Via Email

18th April 2019

Examination Ref: 01/AF/HNP

Dear Mr Freeman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE HUNTINGDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following your letter dated 8th April 2019, regarding the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan examination, Huntingdon Town Council provides the following responses to the queries set out in the Annex to your letter.

1. In order for Huntingdon to facilitate housing, commercial and employment growth, the only area available is the land north of the A141, due to the south and east of town being within a flood plane. It is the Town Council's desire to see a new link road from the A141 Wyton roundabout to the proposed new Huntingdon North railway station, across the railway line in a south west direction to the Spittals interchange.
2. HTC would be happy to reword the Vision to include a time frame.
3. The Vision provides an overall aspiration of what Huntingdon will look like at the end of the period covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. While some of the factors included, such as bringing together sports teams, are not specifically planning matters, they contribute to the overall positive impact the Neighbourhood Plan should have on the town. The site for the sports hub is yet to be confirmed, but if it does fall outside of the plan boundary, the hub will still serve Huntingdon and improve the selection of sports facilities available for Huntingdon residents.
4. HTC would be happy to make amendments to the plan based on the representations of Huntingdonshire District Council (Local Plans Team)
5. A 'reasonable period of time' would be subjective depending on the site, and it would be down to those making planning decisions to deem whether this condition has been met on a case by case basis.
6. The term 'visitor accommodation' is not thought to cause confusion, but HTC would be happy to amend this if deemed necessary.
7. The Neighbourhood Plan does not currently refer to 'navigation' as this was not something that was raised as priority during the community engagement periods. The emerging Local Plan policy LP40



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– Water Related Development supports development where it will not impede navigation networks, and it is not thought that the Neighbourhood Plan would add anything to this policy.

8. Policy NE2 specifies that new major residential development should contribute to open space provision within the site. This line aims to prevent large areas of residential development with no open space, therefore it is considered that the open space should be within the site. The line specifically uses the word 'should' rather than 'must' to allow for occasions where this open space provision would not be appropriate.
9. Policy NE3 is intended to apply to views and linkages into and out of the town. This intends to protect the gateways to the town. Significant views and linkages would be identified as areas at gateways into the town.
10. The emerging Local Plan policy LP17 – Sustainable Travel reasoning supports the provision of new bridleways where appropriate. It is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan would add to this, but HTC would be happy to include a mention of bridleway provision under Policy TT1 – Sustainable Transport, if deemed necessary.

Huntingdon Town Council is open to making changes to address Mr David Ireland's representation, including improved maps and clarifying the community engagement statistics. The Neighbourhood Plan aspires to improve traffic around the town, but it is acknowledged that to make a real difference, an in-depth strategy across various bodies is needed, which is beyond the Neighbourhood Plan. It is also noted that the A14 improvement scheme will bring significant changes to Huntingdon's transport network following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. The current policies in the Neighbourhood Plan seek to ease traffic issues through encouraging sustainable transport.

11. HTC currently has no further comments in response to the Regulation 16 representations.

As requested, a copy of the letter dated 8th April 2019 has been made available on the Huntingdon Town Council website at <https://www.huntingdowntown.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>

We welcome any further questions regarding the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan, following the site visit.

Yours sincerely



Philip Peacock
Town Clerk