



Mr A Thickett
East Devon Local Plan Inspector
C/O Amanda Coombes,
Programme Officer (East Devon Local Plan)
East Devon District Council
Knowle
SIDMOUTH
EX10 8HL

28th May 2015

Dear Sir,

East Devon Local Plan: Examination Resumption – Timing and Programme

I write on behalf of East Devon New Community partners (EDNCp) in relation to matters relating to Cranbrook.

As you are aware we have participated throughout the Examination into the East Devon Local Plan (and also the East Devon CIL Charging Schedule).

We are presently preparing representations in response to the Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Plan and in particular in response to the questions posed by yourself as matters to be addressed in new hearings to be arranged as part of the ongoing Examination.

In particular our representations focus on your question 11: “Is the Area proposed to be designated as the Cranbrook Plan Area justified?”

We also envisage making substantive representations on the housing questions you propose (notably numbers 1-3 and 5-6) regarding delivery and supply – Cranbrook being a central element of the Plan’s policies.

I understand from the Council that informal provision has been made for the Examination sessions to resume during the week of 6th July. My apologies for writing to you regarding programme and timetables, but I would be most grateful if you were able to consider the timing and programming of the resumed sessions in further detail before they are finalised.

In short, the week beginning 6th July coincides in my case with my giving evidence in a long standing section 78 inquiry in respect of a major scheme in Buckinghamshire, and also coincides with the confirmed holiday arrangements of other members of the team that would be expected to contribute to the resumed sessions.

Whilst I understand that the programme cannot readily be designed to accommodate all parties, I do think in this case that the importance of Cranbrook to the Plan as a whole, and the benefits to you of being able to hear contributions from key members of the Cranbrook

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team (including in my case the Project Director for the Cranbrook project over 10 or more years) is of substantial importance to your examination of the soundness of the Plan, and in particular its delivery and the policies relating to Cranbrook. This depth of knowledge does not necessarily reside in others who would otherwise have to attend.

In this circumstance I trust that you will not object if I make a practical suggestion for you to consider.

Specifically, on behalf of the East Devon New Community partners, please may I ask that the session to be arranged that embraces question 11 (i.e. "Is the Area proposed to be designated as the Cranbrook Plan Area justified?") is deferred into the week after that beginning 7th July (i.e. is deferred to the week beginning 13 July) or indeed to an alternative later date. By so doing, this would then allow a full and proper testing of the Plan's policies relating to Cranbrook and those other plan policies that depend upon Cranbrook.

In this arrangement, although not ideal from the EDNCp's perspective, the more general matters in respect of Housing and Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, would continue to be heard in the previous week – beginning 7th July.

I do understand that you will wish to make the arrangements in the light of a range of other availability issues. Nevertheless I hope that you agree that the ability to hear the relevant evidence from the relevant people is of considerable importance and that you are sympathetic to the practical suggestion set out above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me through the Programme Officer if I can assist further. Otherwise I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

NICK FREER
Partner
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cc M Dickins