

Hello Mr Hopkins

The Inspector has asked me to respond as follows:

Given your assertion that you have attended a number of examinations the Inspector is surprised to learn that you consider that you are entitled (on behalf of Save our Sidmouth) to participate in any session you think fit.

Save our Sidmouth is entitled to be heard only where it seeks to make a change to the Local Plan and only on the matters it wishes to change. These rules apply to all parties. Given that the wider issues raised by Save our Sidmouth all support the objections to specific matters in Sidmouth, the Inspector considers that the best place to address them would be in session 7 and does not accept that Save our Sidmouth would be prejudiced by not participating in other sessions. For example, you will see that the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is addressed in question 2a of session 7 under which item the Inspector would naturally expect reference be made to Strategy 46.

Notwithstanding the above, the Inspector has reviewed the representations and considers that Save our Sidmouth may participate in sessions 3, 6 and 7.

Regards

Amanda Polley
Programme Officer
Telephone 01395 571682

-----Original Message-----

From: Charlie Hopkins
Sent: 09 December 2013 13:29
To: ProgrammeOfficer; Richard Thurlow
Subject: East Devon LP EiP

Dear Ms Polley

I act for Save Our Sidmouth, and will be appearing at the forthcoming EiP on their behalf. I believe that you already have my contact details. Mr Thurlow has copied me your e mail from earlier today where he requested, on my advice that SOS appear at sessions 1,3,4,6 and 7 of the EiP. We are currently only listed to appear at Session 7.

Whilst noting your response, SOS's concerns extend beyond the matters limited to Sidmouth. We have concerns, set out in consultation responses, over the district wide proposed allocations of housing and employment land, with consequential concerns over impacts on such matters as AONB land. We therefore consider it essential that we are afforded the opportunity to attend the hearings set out above, and to be able to address the Inspector at such, should the need arise. We consider that there would be a very real risk of our position being prejudiced if we were not provide with this opportunity, and see no basis for our being excluded from any sessions that we may wish to attend. Having participated in a number of EiPs previously, I have not been aware of any similar exclusion being applied elsewhere.

It is also noteworthy that a developer, such as Persimmon, is listed as attending a number of sessions at the EiP, as are a number of other developers. Given this, it seems prima facie prejudicial to a community group such as SOS not to be able to participate on the same basis as other parties.

I would therefore be grateful to receive confirmation that SOS will be permitted to attend any hearing sessions of the EiP that it sees fit.

sincerely

Charlie Hopkins
for SOS