

Eden Local Plan (2014-2032) Examination

Inspector: Melvyn Middleton BA(Econ) DipTP Dip Mgmt MRTPI

Please direct all communications to:

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Mr Haydn Morris and
Dr Phil Greening

Sockbridge and Tirril Parish Council
(via email)

6 March 2017

Dear Mr Morris and Dr Greening

Eden Local Plan Examination

The Inspector has asked me to reply to your letter to him, sent via myself in an email dated 1 March 2017. The Inspector shares your concerns about the length of time it is taking to progress this plan to adoption. Fundamentally that appears to be a product of staffing issues at Eden District Council. He also notes and shares your points about the emerging plan's undermining due to the approval of planning proposals for residential development at appeal.

However, the progress of the examination in this context is outside of the Inspector's control. The Inspector's role is to find the plan sound and where he considers that not to be the case, having considered all of the evidence, to point that out to the District Council and seek appropriate changes. The timing of the making of acceptable changes and the undertaking of the necessary further consultation thereon is a matter for the District Council.

Three Hearing sessions were held to discuss concerns identified by third parties (including yourself) and/or the Inspector, at or following which the Inspector identified the areas that he considered were unlikely to be found sound. The Inspector invited the District Council to submit changes to rectify matters at or shortly after each of the Hearing sessions, the last one of which was held in September 2016. Unfortunately the Inspector has yet to receive a comprehensive set of proposed changes for his perusal. Indeed, some necessary changes that were discussed and agreed following the Hearing sessions last May have still to be worked through into revised sound policies and submitted to the Inspector for his perusal.

The Council can only adopt the plan following receipt of a report from the Inspector indicating that if certain specified modifications are made to the plan then he considers that it would be found sound. In the first instance the modifications are to be suggested to the Inspector by the Council but only at a time when any major changes to the submitted plan have been in the public domain, with appropriate consultation, and everyone has had an opportunity to make further representations and if appropriate to be heard at a Hearing.

Unfortunately we are not yet at this stage.

I am sorry that I am unable to be more helpful. I have copied your letter to Mr Hutchinson at Eden District Council who is in a better position to give you an update as to progress in advancing the necessary changes and the likely timescale before it will be in a position to submit all of the Major Modifications to the Inspector necessary to enable it to be found sound.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Blackburn Programme Officer