

Letter from Examiner

"I acknowledge the two emails which I have received from the Friends of Penrith Beacon and the Keep Penrith Special Group.

It is very unusual to be receiving representation at this stage of a neighbourhood examination as the procedures for conducting neighbourhood plan examinations is set down in legislation and regulation. That has prescribed period where representations may be submitted for the examiners consideration. However I do recognise that the issue regarding the development of a new policy at this stage , covering The Beacon may justify further public involvement.

The position with regard to the Penrith Neighbourhood Plan is that the examination is now held in abeyance until I receive the outcome of the discussions ,which I encouraged in my Post Hearing Note, between Penrith Town Council and the landowners, Lowther Estates assisted by Eden District Council. These discussion need to run their course.

However if a new policy does emerge, whether it is with or without the agreement of the landowners, I must consider whether that new policy should be the subject of public consultation as any new policy would not have been the subject of any prior consultation. Clearly if no policy is put forward by the Town Council, I will proceed with my examination, based on the plan as submitted. If the Town Council does recommend to me that I should consider a new policy to protect the Beacon, my current intention is that this policy should be the subject of a focused consultation which will be facilitated by Eden District Council. That would then be the appropriate time for the two campaign groups to let me have their considered views on any policy being suggested.

In the interest of the transparency of the examination process, I have asked the District Council and the Town Council to put the two letter and this response on the respective neighbourhood plan websites"

Kind regards

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cc Town Council and Lowther Estates.