

BLANDFORD + NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2011 – 2033

EXPLORATORY MEETING

To be held on Thursday 22 August 2019 at 10am at Blandford Parish Centre, The Plocks, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DW.

The purpose of the meeting is to enable the independent Examiner, Mr Terry Kemmann-Lane JP DipTP FRTPI MCMI, to explore his concerns with respect to the extent to which the plan meets the basic conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (introduced by Schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011).

The meeting has been arranged to explore an initial difference of opinion between myself and the Qualifying Body and Dorset Council. The Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2033 has been submitted as being an entirely new Plan, whereas I consider that it must be viewed in the context of the Plan (Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031) that was withdrawn in May 2018, having been through the Examination process. That Examination resulted in recommendations to delete the major policy of that Plan that is now reinstated in the current submission (was Policy 1, now Policies B2 and B3).

Whilst I will obviously approach this Examination with an open mind, I must respect the fact that parties to the previous Examination, who were opposed to Policy 1 of the withdrawn Plan, will have an expectation that any overturning of the previous Examiner's recommendations will be justified by thorough analysis of new evidence.

In addition, I have serious concerns about the Neighbourhood Plan process being used to make strategic allocations, in the absence or contradiction of a Local Plan, in circumstances that embrace matters the subject of national policies that provide for the highest level of protection: those that relate to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

I will explain my concerns more fully when opening the meeting. What I seek is a dialogue with the Qualifying Body and Dorset Council, rather than a confrontational situation. I seek an outcome that will enable my Examination to be constructive: as I have said, I have an open mind to the arguments, which I consider, in all likelihood, will have to be put at a hearing, with respondents to the consultation on the Plan taking part.

Terrence Kemmann-Lane

NOTE: The meeting is open to the public and anyone can attend and observe. However, the Examiner is only inviting representatives of Blandford Forum Town Council (the Qualifying Body) and Dorset Council to participate in the meeting; it is procedural, not evidential.