

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF MILTON ERNEST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: David Hogger BA MSc MRTPI MCIHT

'Milton Ernest villagers in opposition to the current MENDP'

C/o XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

Milton Ernest

Bedford MK44 XXX

cc. Kim Wilson, Sonia Gallaher

Bedford Borough Council

Examination Ref: 02/DH/MENP

5 July 2021

Dear Ms XXXXXXXX

MILTON ERNEST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

I refer to the letter of 14 June 2021, sent on behalf of 'Milton Ernest villagers in opposition to the current MENDP' to Kim Wilson, Bedford Borough Council, which was passed to me on 23 June 2021. Several points have been raised, directed for the attention of the Milton Ernest Neighbourhood Plan Examiner.

Post-dating your letter, Milton Ernest Parish Council has since provided a response on 22 June 2021 to the questions I set out in my examination procedural letter of 10 May 2021. Bedford Borough Council provided a response on 26 May 2021. These appear to be satisfactorily available on both the Parish and Local Authority websites.

I indicated in my procedural letter (10 May) that my intention is to undertake the examination by way of written representations. I remain of the view that I have sufficient information based on all the written material before me, including the comprehensive public representations made at Regulation 16¹ and the responses referred to above, to determine whether the Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions'² and other legal requirements.

In making my determination, I may recommend Examiner modifications i.e. proposed changes to the Plan necessary to meet the Basic Conditions.³ These recommendations would then be considered by the Local Planning Authority in making their determination as to whether to accept the recommendations⁴, prior to the Plan being put to a referendum.⁵ You will appreciate a referendum is a democratic opportunity for all residents in the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area to vote on the suitability of a Plan and it is not appropriate for me to predict what any future outcome might be.

¹ The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

² Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

³ Paragraph 10.

⁴ Paragraphs 12 & 13.

⁵ Paragraph 14.

As the appointed Examiner, I have no authority to consider allegations of misconduct arising during the production of a Plan, such as conflicts of interest.⁶ In respect of the propriety or otherwise of the internal arrangements to which you refer, these are matters to be raised with the Local Planning Authority and/or Parish Council.

In the interests of transparency, I am requesting that both your letter of 14 June and this reply be placed on the Parish Council and Local Authority websites.

Yours sincerely

David Hogger

Examiner

⁶ Paragraph 1.16.1, Guidance to Service Users and Examiners: <https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/upholding-professional-standards/regulation/drs/drs-services/npiers-planning-guidance-to-service-users-and-examiners-rics.pdf>