

Lucy Staves

From: Clerk Parish <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 10 June 2016 09:45
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Northampton Local Plan Consultation - Response from West Hunsbury Parish Council
Attachments: WHPC Response to Northampton Local Plan Consultation.pdf

Attached is a response from West Hunsbury Parish Council to the Northampton Local Plan Consultation.

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this reponse.

Many thanks

Sandra Guest
Clerk to West Hunsbury Parish Council

[REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED]

Please note that the contents of this e-mail, including any attachments thereto, may contain information which is confidential or privileged, and which is solely for the use of the recipient named above. The information contained in this e-mail, and in your reply, may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legislation, and its confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. West Hunsbury Parish Council.

WEST HUNSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

RESPONSE TO NORTHAMPTON LOCAL PLAN (PART 2) CONSULTATION

	Your Details	Agents Details (if applicable)
Name	Sandra Guest	
Organisation	West Hunsbury Parish Council	
Position	Clerk to the Council	
Email	████████████████████	
Telephone	██████████	
Address	██████████ ████████████████████	
Town	Northampton	
Postcode	██████████	
Your Role	Are you the Landowner, Land Agent, Developer, Housing Association, Planning Consultant, Other?	
	Other - Parish Council	

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Partial Review of the Central Area Action Plan

Issues Paper

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

Question 1 – What are the main issues relating to housing delivery, mix and affordability which the Local Plan (Part 2) should consider? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the number of new homes that is already identified in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

The Local Plan must maintain the current planning statuses of West Hunsbury and protect the ambience and character of the area.

Any exceptions must be openly discussed and the Parish Council involved. Possible Exceptions to be discussed:

a) Some green spaces are very under used such as the area adjacent to Claystones and after consultation with residents it may be sensible to see these areas put to new uses, e.g:

- i. Housing
- ii. Sports facilities (Cricket / Tennis)
- iii. Other?

b) Other areas to think about include:

- open areas around Mallard Close;
- Ironstone Railway Site;
- Ladybridge Football Pavilion Area;
- 'Developers Left Pockets'; NCC land behind Camp Hill;
- ACRE Site and adjacent public areas

However, there are very limited potential development sites in West Hunsbury and it is important that development is not allowed to encroach on to our green areas such as pocket parks or that established parks designed for community use are not permitted to be taken away for housing development.

Question 2 – Do you think that we need sites that can deliver new homes more quickly, in the short to medium term?

No comments.

Question 3 - Do you think that we need a mix of market housing eg. family homes, housing for single households?

There is still a shortage of affordable homes in Northampton which needs to be addressed however this shortage should not override the need for a mix of other housing as well such as family homes and housing for single occupancy.

Question 4 - Do you think that we need a mix of affordable housing eg. affordable rent, social rent, shared ownership, Starter Homes?

No comments.

Question 5 – Is there evidence to support the Local Plan (Part 2) introducing the optional national housing technical standards in relation to access and space standards?

No comments.

Question 6 – Is there evidence to support the Local Plan (Part 2) introducing the optional national housing technical standards in relation to water efficiency standards?

No comments.

Question 7 – Are there particular sites that are not used currently for employment uses which you consider would be particularly suitable for new employment uses? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the jobs growth which is already set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

The Ironstone pub in West Hunsbury has been closed for over three years. The Borough Council has a restricted covenant for its use as a pub only. Due to this covenant West Hunsbury is denied the possibility of other businesses such as a take away, restaurant etc which would benefit residents.

If this covenant was removed the building could be brought into commercial use. This would create new jobs and a community or commercial asset for the area. The Local Plan should look at this and similar buildings and avoid the long-term presence of unsightly, under-used assets.

Question 8 – Outside of the Enterprise Zone, are there any other existing employment areas where opportunities could be improved and vacancy rates could be addressed? If so, how could this be achieved?

No comments.

Question 9 – Do you think there are any areas within the Borough where certain types of employment development are generally acceptable but which currently require planning permission, which could reasonably be dispensed with through the introduction of a Local Development Order?

No comments.

Question 10 – Please provide details of any particular infrastructure issues in relation to new development which you think the Local Plan (Part 2) should address, if possible providing evidence?

Development issues

Milton Ham – the plan should revert to the planning status originally intended (max 3 story buildings, Offices, Hotels and small retail units).

The Green Space around the Milton Ham Site and the Crematorium must be protected. The Local Plan should protect green spaces acting as buffers between residential areas and the employment sites such as Milton Ham. Employment is important and will benefit Northampton but not to the detriment of its residents amenities.

Roads/transport

The Local Plan needs to ensure that when consent is considered for new employment premises /warehouses that proper account is taken of extra traffic and there is the infrastructure to accommodate it. Established residential areas should not be subjected to additional traffic on roads that are inadequate in size and condition and be subject to increased volume and speed.

In addition, there should be appropriate planning for bus and other public transport provision, based on needs driven by local developments.

The Plan should ensure appropriate transport infrastructure is put in place driven by developments in the areas around West Hunsbury, including:

- Making West Hunsbury a no HGV area except for access
- Installing speed activated traffic lights / junctions onto through routes

Question 11 – How do we ensure a successful town centre in light of changes to shopping habits such as increased use of out of town retail and on-line shopping? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the retail growth which is set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

No comments.

Question 12 - Are there areas where the location of betting shops and hot food takeaways should be restricted?

No comments.

Question 13 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to protect and enhance areas of biodiversity in addition to the policies in the NPPF and Joint Core Strategy?

No comments.

Question 14 - Do you think there are priority areas where green infrastructure networks could be enhanced or extended?

Some additional development/ further facilities around the Hunsbury Hill Car park may be desirable and allow the car park to be improved.

Some facility development adjacent to the Play area /car park at Ladybridge such as a cafe may be desirable.

Question 15 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to protect and enhance heritage in addition to the policies on the historic environment in the NPPF and the Joint Core Strategy?

No comments.

Question 16 - Should the Council review the list of locally listed assets of historical importance?

West Hunsbury parks have historical significance such as the Hill Fort and the Local Plan needs to protect parks and sites such as these for the future and ensure that they remain for leisure use and educational use only. Development, both housing and employment, would have a devastating effect on these areas.

The Council must review its list of locally listed assets of historical importance and protect them.

Question 17 - Do you think there are locally important landscapes which should be identified in the Local Plan (Part 2)?

West Hunsbury parks have historical significance such as the Hill Fort and the Local Plan needs to protect parks and sites such as these for the future and ensure that they remain for leisure use and educational use only. Development, both housing and employment, would have a devastating effect on these areas.

The Council must review its list of locally listed assets of historical importance and protect them.

Question 18 – How do we ensure that new development preserves and enhances the character and appearance of the Borough and makes a positive contribution?

No comments.

Question 19 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to promote measures within new development to address climate change and renewable energy in addition to the policies in the Joint Core Strategy?

The Local Plan should address the importance of renewable energy when looking at new developments and ensure developers are encouraged to build with energy efficient materials.

Question 20 – Should we review and incorporate existing Interim Planning Policy Guidance (eg. Affordable Housing, Houses in Multiple Occupation, etc) into the Local Plan (Part 2)?

No comments

Question 21 - Are there any other issues that the Local Plan (Part 2) needs to consider?

No comments

Central Area Action Plan

Question 22 - Flood Risk and Drainage (Policy 5) - is this policy still appropriate and up to date in relation to the Drainage Plan Part 1?

No comments

Question 23 - Inner Ring Road (Policy 6) - is the proposal for the Inner Ring Road still appropriate and up-to-date?

No comments

Question 24 - Safeguarded Public Transport Route (Policy 8) – is the proposal for a public transport / cycling / walking route still appropriate and up-to-date?

No comments

Question 25 - Pedestrian and Cycling Movement Network (Policy 9) – should this policy be updated to link to the County Council's Smart Corridors initiative? Are the identified routes into and across the town centre still up-to-date?

No comments

Question 26 - Parking (Policy 10) – should the Council identify more car parks within the town centre and if so, where should they be?

No comments

Question 27 - Improving the Retail Offer (Policy 13) – this policy needs to be updated due to changes in Government policy such as the extension of permitted development rights. Do secondary frontages still need to be identified?

No comments

Question 28 - Meeting Retail Capacity (Policy 14) – do we need a more up-to-date retail capacity study to ensure that this policy is up-to-date?

No comments

Question 29 - Office and Business Uses (Policy 15) – this policy needs to be revised due to changes in Government policy. Should we identify land for new offices within the town centre? How should the Council seek to safeguard existing office space, especially in light of recent and proposed Government changes regarding permitted development rights?

No comments

Question 30 – Do any of the site specific policies need updating? Please indicate which policies and provide details if possible (Policies 18-35).

No comments

Question 31 - Please provide details of any other policies in the Central Area Action Plan which you consider the Council should reassess to ensure that they are up-to-date, if possible providing evidence.

No comments

**Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)
Consultation On The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

When preparing a Local Plan, the Council is legally required to undertake an environmental appraisal of its proposed plans and policies, as well as a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). There is a requirement to consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of these policies.

Question 32 - Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report?

Please identify the page, paragraph number(s), table or appendix within the Scoping Report to which each of your comments applies.

No comments

**Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)
Consultation On The Draft Statement Of Community Involvement**

The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the local community, businesses and other organisations with an interest in development in Northampton can get involved. It provides a framework for involving and informing community engagement in plan making as well as in determining planning applications.

Question 33 - Do you have any comments on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement?

No comments.