

Barnsley Local Plan Examination

Inspector - Mrs S Housden BA (Hons) BPI MRTPI
Programme Officer – Mr Richard Gilbert
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24 April 2017

Dear Keep it Green 2014,

Thank you for your emails of 18 and 21 April 2017.

I will respond to the points you have raised in turn:

1. I note that you have submitted the notes of the 'Keep in Touch' meeting of 30.3.17. However, as this has been submitted outside the process for responding to the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs), I have asked the Programme Officer to return it. If you wish to refer these to me, I suggest that they are included as an appendix within any additional statements that you wish to make in response to the MIQs.
2. I do not intend to hold an Exploratory Meeting before the Stage 1 hearing sessions start. The Procedural Practice¹ makes clear that the need for an EM arises if the Inspector has significant concerns about the key matters and issues identified in the initial reading of the submitted plan, and would only follow after the Inspector had written to the local planning authority in the first instance. In this case you will see from the Examination web site that I have asked the Council a number of initial questions and they have responded with updates to a number of the evidence base documents, all of which will be covered during the hearing sessions.
3. The structure and approach to the Examination has been made clear on the Examination web site and in my Briefing Note. The Stage 1 hearing sessions will focus on legal and procedural matters together with the amount of housing and employment land that will be needed in the Borough over the plan period. If I conclude that the plan is likely to be capable of being found legally compliant and sound following the Stage 1 hearings, Stage 2 of the Examination will cover a number of strategic matters including the distribution of development, the approach to the Green Belt, transport and the environment. Whilst I note the representations of KIG 2014, these are all matters which can all be dealt with within the scope of the Examination.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Housden

INSPECTOR

¹ Procedural Practice in the Examination of Local Plans The Planning Inspectorate June 2016