

From: keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk
To: richard.smithainsley@btinternet.com
Subject: RE: Local Plan Review #2
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2014 20:45:07 +0000

Dear Councillor Smith-Ainsley

That's what the evidence says, in terms.

I say again, I am happy to take you through it.

Regards

Alan Doyle

From: richard.smithainsley@btinternet.com
Subject: Re: Local Plan Review #2
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2014 20:27:49 +0000
To: keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Alan

As I said, you will get a response to the wider issues you raise in due course. I was just making the point that as Chairman of the Local Plan working party whatever you are referring to as 'The Council' it is not 'doing its utmost to keep local Councillors in the dark' regarding policies. The policies that get put forward for the consultation and Examination cannot be proposed without the approval of the Councillors and others; and the Councillors are not being kept in the dark regarding any preparation of policies.

Brgds
Richard

Sent from my iPad

On 11 Dec 2014, at 19:58, Keep Kempton Green
<keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Councillor Smith-Ainsley

We have never said our Local Plan (and it is OUR Local Plan) has been changed without going through a process. What we said is that certain things need to be part of that process, and have not been.

Attached please find the guidance from the DCLG governing who LPAs have to "work with" regarding housing needs and targets.

Note, the phrase "work with" means a much greater and intimate involvement than "consult", according to our advice.

The guidance says that Local communities (and other stakeholders) should be involved from the earliest stages of plan preparation, which includes the preparation of the evidence base in relation to development needs. (My underlining.)

It is abundantly clear from the "leaked" LPWP document that work has already been done in the preparation of the evidence base (again, confirmed by the advice we have sought). Yet Local Communities have not been involved.

Considering the furore about how "Confidential" that document was (completely misplaced in law, as it happens), it is extremely doubtful that we would have found out about it at all, until we were presented with a fait accomplis in a short consultation process, whereby we might, if lucky, be able to make a few tinkering about the edges.

We have no idea whether any of the other stakeholders mentioned in Guidance 007 have been involved. On the basis of the Heather Morgan-David Keene-Mark Boyes email exchange, however, they may well have been.

There is another matter relating to the publication of documents related to this review of our Local Plan. They should have been made public under the relevant regulations, and were not. However, we have made a formal request for those documents and the Council has until 23 December to reply. Some, but by no means all, of those documents were made public in the recent notice calling for the registration of interest in the Review of the Local Plan on the Council's website.

Regards

Alan Doyle

From: richard.smithainsley@btinternet.com

Subject: Re: Local Plan Review #2

Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2014 19:39:30 +0000

To: keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Alan,

As Chairman of the Local Plan Working party I would be interested to have the reference to the policy in the Local Plan that has been altered without having gone through the whole process of public consultation and Examination before being approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

The policies in the Local Plan, or if applicable (on very rare occasions) any overriding government legislation, are the policies that the Planning Committee have to take into account when they make their decisions on planning applications.

Only if those policies are changed by the very public process I have briefly mentioned above do they get accepted as having been changed. The Local Development Framework, now called the Local Plan has not been changed since 2009.

Brgds

Richard

Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley

Sent from my iPad

On 11 Dec 2014, at 19:16, Keep Kempton Green
<keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Councillor Smith-Ainsley

The reason we say such things is because that is what the evidence shows. One piece (of a multitude of pieces of evidence which we have) was attached to that email.

I am only too happy to take you through the rest of the evidence we have. The pile is four feet high.

Regards

Alan Doyle

From: richard.smithainsley@btinternet.com

Subject: Re: Local Plan Review #2

Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2014 19:12:43 +0000

To: keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Alan

Thank you for this. I am sure you will receive a full response in due course. As Chairman of the Local Plan working party I can assure you that, as you are probably aware, it is an 'all party' working party.

It is therefore unfortunate that you have emailed so many organisations and individuals to state that in the preparation of policy that the 'Council' (whatever or whoever that is supposed to refer to) "will try their utmost to keep residents and local Councillors in the dark."

This is the sort of message that unfortunately leads to the 'widespread' idea that you believe that residents have.

As I stated you will receive a fuller response to your email.

Rgds

Richard

Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley

Sent from my iPad

On 6 Dec 2014, at 14:23, Smith-Ainsley, Richard (Councillor) <cllr.smith-ainsley@spelthorne.gov.uk> wrote:

Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley

Laleham and Shepperton Green ward

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Keep Kempton Green" <keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk>

To: "Smith-Ainsley, Richard (Councillor)" <cllr.smith-ainsley@spelthorne.gov.uk>

Subject: Local Plan Review #2

Dear Councillor Smith-Ainsley

Please find below and attached a letter sent today to Cllr Vivienne Leighton, Cabinet member for Planning, and Mr John Brooks, Head of Planning, and copied to the Spelthorne Residents Associations and your fellow Borough Councillors.

Attached is the email exchange referred to in the letter.

Yours

Alan Doyle

for Keep Kempton Green

Cllr Vivienne Leighton, Cabinet member for Planning

5 December 2014

Mr John Brooks, Head of Planning
Spelthorne Borough Council

By email to

cllr.leighton@spelthorne.gov.uk<<mailto:cllr.leighton@spelthorne.gov.uk>> ,
j.brooks@spelthorne.gov.uk<<mailto:j.brooks@spelthorne.gov.uk>>

cc: Spelthorne Residents Associations, Spelthorne Borough Councillors

Dear Councillor Leighton, Mr Brooks

Local Plan Review

Thank you for your reply to our 25 November letter, and also the notice posted on the Spelthorne Council website on 1 December:

(<https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/8951/Review-of-the-Local-Plan>)

inviting the registration of interests for the Review of our Local Plan. Thank you for the publication with that notice of some of the documents we asked for in our previous letter.

You say in your reply that you envisage the timescale being “months, not

weeks” before you will be able to confirm the arrangements the Council will put in place for consultation and involvement on the preparation of the new Local Plan.

It is clear from a number of documents which have come to light over past months that work has already been done towards the preparation of the evidence base for setting the housing target. Communities should therefore already have been involved, under the DCLG guidance that they “be involved from the earliest stages of plan preparation”.

Please could you explain why there should be further delay.

Further delay serves only to reinforce the idea, which is widespread amongst the residents of Spelthorne, that the Council is fully prepared to involve developers in the preparation of policy, and plans for construction projects, but will try their utmost to keep residents and local Councillors in the dark.

This certainly appears to have been Council practice in the recent past. Please see the attached email exchange between the then Head of Planning and various consultants to The Jockey Club, including the ubiquitous Mark Boyes of Aspire. In it, the then Head of Planning warns against saying anything “which might set hares running if someone picks up on this (Cllrs or a residents association)”. She then gives further tactical advice regarding his comments on the subject of Green Belt to David Keene (of David Lock Associates, Town and Urban Planning consultants to The Jockey Club), suggesting that his cause – and the Council’s - might be best served by him using “softer” language.

This is just one of many documents, dated into 2014, which prove this point.

Kind regards

Alan Doyle
for Keep Kempton Green