



Queen Camel Parish Council

Chairman – Simon Thornehill

Peter Paddon
Lead Specialist Strategy & Commissioning
South Somerset District Council
Brympton Way
YEOVIL
Somerset
BA20 2HT

17 June 2020

Dear Peter

I have been delegated responsibility by Queen Camel Parish Council to provide SSDC with the Parish Council's comments on the Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's report. The Council met on 8 June 2020 at which meeting the Council Resolved its comments (below).

Please see the attached revised version of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), which includes the Examiner's modifications. Please do not assume that since the Parish Council has provided this revised version, it indicates that the Parish Council accepts the Examiner's modifications (that is not a Decision for the Parish Council).

Please also see the following comments from Queen Camel PC on the draft NP Examiner's report (1 June 2020). The Parish Council has discussed the Examiner's report and made the following Decisions:

1. The PC wants to retain the Settlement Boundary in the NP, as it provides clarity as to the area where general infill would be appropriate and was supported by local residents in preparing the plan;
2. SSDC should include the Settlement Boundary or make other suitable modifications;
3. that the Parish Council want the NP to be in conformity with the LP;
4. that the NP is given significant weight by SSDC when making development management (planning) decisions, as soon as possible; and
5. that the NP is taken to Referendum as soon as possible.

Clearly the Localism Act 2011, Schedule 10 requires the Local Planning Authority to make Decisions on the Examiner's report, not the Parish Council. Nevertheless, it is appreciated that SSDC has afforded the Parish Council time to consider and provide these comments, for consideration by SSDC's Executive Committee in August 2020.

Stephen Hill

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Queen Camel Parish Council
5 Woodpecker Meadow, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4GB
tel: 07949 150 888
email: clerk@queencamelpc.org.uk

It's important to note that the Examiner's suggested modification to remove the Settlement Boundary has created tensions within the community, which the Parish Council is trying to manage. That significant modification in preparation of the NP is regrettable and the Parish Council is surprised that this fundamental modification has arisen at this late stage, and that the Examiner did not feel it necessary to discuss this change with the District or Parish Council.

I understand that the NP must be in conformity with the LP and therefore removal of the Settlement Boundary would promote that conformity; there are also other options that could be explored.

The Parish Council wants to retain the Settlement Boundary as it provides clarity on definition of infill development. Removal of the Settlement Boundary also reduces the likelihood of rural exception sites to be brought forward for AH development under Policy QC1, as the NPPF directs these to other sites that would not otherwise be used for housing.

It would be helpful to see a draft of your report to the Executive Committee. It is contrary to the Parish Council's objective (to have the NP approved as soon as possible), for SSDC to decide not to accept the Examiner's modifications (ie for SSDC to retain the Settlement Boundary) for defined reasons; it is recognised that that would require re-consultation and potentially re-Examination with the inherent time delays. Nevertheless, so that Members are fully informed, I expect that the report to Executive should include the Option for SSDC not to accept the Examiner's modifications.

I understand that the Examiner's report will be considered by the SSDC Executive at its meeting in August 2020. The Parish Council is likely to send a representative to the Executive Committee and may speak on the matter.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Hill
Parish Clerk

cc.

Leader: Val Keitch
Deputy Leader: Peter Seib
Environment Portfolio: Sarah Dyke
Protecting Core Services Portfolio: Tony Lock
Economic Development Portfolio: John Clark
Chairman of East Area Committee: Henry Hobhouse

Chairman: Paul Maxwell
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Sue Osborne: Vice Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Alex Parmley: Chief Executive
Kirsty Larkins: Director of Strategy and Commissioning
Simon Fox: Lead Specialist Planning
Tim Cook: Locality Team Manager
David Clews: Policy Planner

Jo Witherden: Dorset Planning

Simon Thornewill: QCPC Chairman
Sue Gettings: QCPC Vice Chairman
All QCPC Councillors

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