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Georgina Clampitt-Dix
Head of Spatial Planning
Economic Development and Planning
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
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24th May 2018

Dear Ms Clampitt-Dix

Re: Cabinet Meeting on 15th May / Crudwell Neighbourhood Plan

We regret that no member of Crudwell Parish Council or Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group was able to attend the Cabinet Meeting on 15th May, during which the draft Wiltshire Site Allocations Plan was extensively discussed. We would have welcomed the opportunity to make representations to Cabinet and to provide an update on progress with Crudwell's Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately, we were only made aware of the meeting the previous evening and, at that late stage, nobody was available. We note with interest that representatives from the Market Lavington NP Steering Group and North Bradley Parish Council were present to comment on progress with their Neighbourhood Plans.

However, we have viewed the webcast of the Cabinet meeting and wish to raise a number of points. With regard to the issue of timing, we are pleased that the decision has been taken to defer endorsement of the draft Site Allocations Plan and its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for examination. This will provide a window to enable consideration of potential changes arising from representations by Ward Members and town and parish councils.

It was clear from the Cabinet Meeting that Cllr. Scott is concerned that the Site Allocations Plan may be over-riding the "localism" agenda in some cases. For this reason, she recommended, and Cabinet resolved, that officers should work with Market Lavington and North Bradley to give them every opportunity to reach regulation 16 before the Site Allocations Plan goes to examination. We are assuming that deferment of Cabinet's endorsement of the Site Allocations Plan is likely to result in it reaching examination in early 2019, taking account also of the Christmas / New Year break.

Whilst we were encouraged by this resolution, we were extremely disappointed that the Crudwell NP process was referred to dismissively by Cllr. Sturgis. We would submit that the Crudwell NP is at roughly the same stage of development as North Bradley's and therefore should be treated in the same way. We would expect a similar level of support to be offered to Crudwell to help us to reach regulation 16 by the examination date.

Progress that has been made with Crudwell's NP to date is as follows:

- Initial community engagement survey undertaken
- Over 300 parishioners on our mailing list
- Housing Needs Assessment completed
- Call for Sites undertaken, resulting in 11 sites identified
- Consultations with infrastructure providers ongoing
- General Meeting open to all parishioners and interested parties held (attendance: about 80)
- Focus Groups set up to make recommendations on policies and site / housing allocations
- Joint Focus Groups Exhibition and consultations with parishioners held (attendance: about 70)
- Focus Groups' recommendations due to be submitted to Steering Group 1st week in June, to include housing site allocation(s)
- Regulation 14 document to be released for consultation in Autumn 2018
- Regulation 16 submission in early 2019
- Please visit our website for more information on our progress <http://www.my-crudwell.org/plan/>

On that basis, there is likely to be very little time between our Neighbourhood Plan reaching regulation 16 and the examination of your Site Allocation Plan. This makes it even more pressing that we should be provided with every assistance to reach regulation 16 as early as possible, as advocated by Cllr. Scott.

It is noteworthy that our fundamental case with regard to the Housing Site Allocations Plan is very similar to that expressed by Cllr. Gamble at the Cabinet Meeting, i.e. that there is no strategic need for the Housing Site Allocations Plan to allocate any sites in Crudwell because there is already sufficient housing identified in both the North and West Wiltshire Housing Market Area and the Malmesbury Community Area. On that basis, any allocations in Crudwell should be made to meet local housing needs and this is precisely what the Crudwell NP aims to deliver. We have found no evidence explaining why officers feel that this view, and therefore the Government's "localism" agenda, should be disregarded.

We wholeheartedly support the "localism" agenda and understand the need for communities to provide homes to meet local needs. What we are asking is that Crudwell should be given the same opportunity as others to help shape the future of its community by being in a position to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan that truly reflects local needs and expectations.

We are very conscious that decisions made now will have long-term implications for the future of our community. Therefore, we believe that it is both prudent and appropriate that the views of those who live and work within the parish of Crudwell should be taken into account in the policies formulated in the Wiltshire Site Allocations Plan.

This letter has also been sent to Cllr Baroness Scott at Wiltshire Council and copied to Cllr Sturgis and Cllr Berry.

Yours sincerely,




Peter Gilchrist – Chairman, Crudwell Parish Council

Mike Credicott – Crudwell Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan Lead