



A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR STOKE MANDEVILLE

Planning Policy

AVDC, the Gateway

Gatehouse Road

Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

Via email to localplanconsult@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

17 December 2019

Dear Sirs,

Response to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan – Main Modifications

We enclose a response to the consultation on the main modifications to the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. This response has been prepared by the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Stoke Mandeville Parish Council.

We have several broader points regarding the Examination which we request are brought to the attention of the Inspector.

Firstly, we question whether the continuation of the Examination is appropriate. Due to the date that the Plan was submitted for Examination, it is progressing under the 'transitional arrangements' meaning that it is being examined in terms of its accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of 2012. The NPPF has been updated twice since 2012 and there have been considerable changes to it, meaning that the VALP is being prepared in the context of out of date national policy.

Additionally, the proposed main modifications to the Plan are extensive, yet we have identified a number of issues with regard to the soundness of the modifications which relate solely to our own area of interest (Stoke Mandeville Parish). To explore these issues properly will require the re-opening of the Examination hearing sessions. This will mean that there is continued uncertainty not

only about the soundness of the Plan, but whether or not it can progress to adoption during the first part of 2020.

The timing issues are particularly important given that Aylesbury Vale District Council will not exist after the end of March 2020 as it will be replaced by the Buckinghamshire unitary authority which comes into being on 1 April 2020. Given the continued uncertainty about the soundness of the VALP, it would be more appropriate to stop its preparation now, and for the future planning of Aylesbury Vale district to be taken forward via a new Plan that will look holistically at the area covered by the Buckinghamshire unitary authority.

If the Inspector does decide that the VALP can continue to progress, we request that the hearing sessions are re-opened so that points of soundness can be properly discussed. We would like to participate in these hearing sessions on behalf of Stoke Mandeville Parish Council.

Yours faithfully,



Laurence Prestage

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