Tysoe Neighbourhood Development Plan

Section 17 A Re-examination Arrangements

Purpose of this Note

This Note sets out the basis on which the re-examination of the neighbourhood plan will be undertaken. Its ambitions are two-fold:

- to comply with the MHCLG/NPIERS Guidance for service users and examiners (April 2018); and
- to provide guidance for the Parish Council on the key stages of the examination.

The examination route map

Different examinations raise their own issues. Plainly the re-examination process after the Regulation 17 A consultation process will be much more focused that the initial examination. Nevertheless, the forthcoming examination of Tysoe Plan will follow a similar format to that of the initial examination and will have the following the key stages:

Stage 1: Background Reading

This involves reading the proposed updated Plan, its supporting evidence and the various representations. I will take all this information into account when preparing my report.

I have already started this stage of the examination and it will be finished by the end of this week.

Stage 2: Visit to the neighbourhood area

The visit will provide me with an opportunity to look at the specific changes to the Plan which have arisen as a result of the Regulation 17 stage.

The visit will be unaccompanied. I will not meet with representatives of the Parish Council, the District Council or any of the parties who have commented on the Plan. To do so would have the potential to affect the independence of the examination process.

I will visit the neighbourhood area in the week beginning 14 February 2021. I will follow Covid:19 restrictions and avoid any social contact.

Stage 3: Clarification Note

Shortly after the visit I will prepare a clarification note. It will raise a series of questions for the Parish Council on the Regulation 17A Plan. The answers to the questions will help me to understand the Plan better and, where necessary, to recommend modifications to ensure it meets the basic conditions.

The clarification note will suggest a timescale for responses based on the specific issues it addresses. However, this is a matter which I am happy should proceed at whatever pace is determined locally. This acknowledges that work on neighbourhood plans is carried out by parish councils and individuals on a voluntary basis.

Stage 4: Decision about the need for a hearing

The combination of the background reading, the unaccompanied visit and the responses to the clarification note will allow me to come to a view about the need or otherwise for a hearing as part of the examination process. The legislation anticipates that the vast majority of examinations can proceed by way of written representations and without a hearing.

If a hearing is required, I will make separate arrangements with the District Council and the Parish Council. Plainly those arrangements would need to take account of the current Covid:19 restrictions.

Stage 5: The Examination Report

My report will be prepared throughout the examination period. Its general parts can be written early in the process. The elements of the report that overlap with the clarification note will not be prepared until the responses to the note are received.

As with the initial examination I will prepare a fact check report before the final report. This will give an opportunity for the Parish Council and the District Council to comment on any factual inaccuracies and/or omissions within the report. It will not present an opportunity for the examination to enter another phase.

Other related matters

The timing of the examination

Plainly different neighbourhood plans cover different issues. In this case the issues are very specific and I anticipate being able to send the fact check report in mid-March 2021. Plainly this will depend on the timing of the responses to the clarification note.

Documents

I have asked Stratford-on-Avon District Council to display all examination-related documents on its website.

Contact arrangements

My principal contact throughout the examination will be Matthew Neal at the District Council. In most cases I will ask the District Council to send documents to the Parish Council on my behalf.

Andrew Ashcroft

Independent Examiner

Tysoe Neighbourhood Development Plan

11 February 2021