

RESPONSE FROM NIGEL ADAMS – MP re letter sent by 3 Parish Council Chairs – Sept 2022

Dear Mr Chambers,

Thank you for your letter dated 21st September sent via email. It was received while I was on a short break. I am sure that you appreciate the value of taking a holiday and that responding to multiple complex issues takes time.

You may respectfully ask me to study the content of your letter, which I have done, but I have no authority to evaluate the legality and soundness of the draft local plan or the way in which the council has undertaken the consultations as part of their plan production. That responsibility rests with a planning inspector who would be appointed to decide on the plan if the council decides to proceed by submitting the plan after the current consultation.

However, I am pleased to confirm that it is a matter for an MP to represent the views of their constituents and to put them forward to the decision maker, and for that reason I ask that objections submitted via the consultation process be copied to me. This will enable me to summarise the comments and embody the key elements within a submission that I am entitled to make myself via the same consultation process.

The current consultation on the submission draft local plan is, as you have pointed out, a critical stage in the production of a new local plan. The points you raise should be addressed to the council via the consultation process. At the close of the consultation, the council will decide whether they progress the plan by submitting it for inspection. If they do decide to submit the plan for inspection after receiving the feedback from Parish Councils and members of the public then all of those comments, including any that I make, will be forwarded to the planning inspector who is appointed to review the application. At a later stage there would also be an opportunity for you to present your case directly to the planning inspector via an Examination in Public.

When this matter was first brought to my attention, I asked my assistant, Dr Howard Ferguson, to review all of the comments and to send a response which included pointers about the scope of the consultation process and the key documents to take into consideration when responding. This was then followed up with any emerging reports of the progress of other local plans. This was done to provide pointers to the range of factors being taken into account when planning inspectors reach their decisions.

I hope that you have found the information sent to you to be helpful, but the authoritative reference is the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

In order for me to include any comments in any submission that I make, can you please ensure that I receive your comments before 26th October as anything submitted after 5pm on 28th October will not be accepted.

Kind regards,

Nigel Adams

The Rt Hon Nigel Adams MP
Member of Parliament for Selby and Ainsty