



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

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John Slater Planning Ltd

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10 September 2019

Dear Mr Slater

Everton Neighbourhood Plan; Receipt of Independent Examiners Report

Thank you for issuing the Everton Neighbourhood Plan Examination report to Bassetlaw District Council as the Local Planning Authority.

The publication of the report on the independent examination of the Everton Neighbourhood Plan is a major milestone in the development of this locally-led, 15 year strategy for the parish. The examination of neighbourhood plans is a statutory process, providing the benefit of an informed, independent perspective on the contents of a plan and the process through which it has been developed. In recommending that the plan proceed to a public referendum, subject to specified modifications, the final say on whether the plan is made by Bassetlaw District Council will be provided to the local community. The date of the referendum has yet to be determined, but will be publicised when confirmed.

At the date of this statement, thirteen neighbourhood plans have now been 'made' in Bassetlaw, with a further sixteen at various stages of development, and six made plans currently being updated. Within this context, it cannot be denied that the process of developing the Everton Neighbourhood Plan has been challenging – for all parties involved. This is something that is reflected in the report, and your decision to call a public hearing during the examination to inform your deliberations.

I would highlight that the consideration of a lack of housing target for Everton in the 2011 Core Strategy was not a necessary requirement as rooted in the National Planning Policy Framework we see today and the Council have duly issued a figure to each Neighbourhood Planning Group accordingly since the introduction of that requirement.

In understanding the selection of suitable sites for future development, you will be aware that suitability plays a key role in land availability appraisal. It is disappointing to see your comments on the advice given by the Local Planning Authority to the Everton Neighbourhood Planning Group when qualified, accredited Local Authority Planners have utilised the standard approach to ensure deliverability across all Neighbourhood Plans and this has never been questioned previously. In the Everton specifically referenced proposed site allocation, this included an initial consideration of site history; a historical refusal of planning permission, followed with an appeal dismissal. Given that the site proposed was for a larger scheme on the previously refused site it was reasonable for the appraising officer to take the appeal decision into account in the manner they did and the Local

Planning Authority maintain that position. This approach justifiably remains part of the initial sifting process and has been consistent for a number of years in conjunction with a shifting national policy approach.

Despite the acknowledged challenges, the District Council as Local Planning Authority recognises the invaluable contributions made by the Everton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Everton Parish Council, specialist consultants, members of the public, statutory consultees, and Council officers, throughout the development process. Their persistence, combined with the recommendations made by you as Examiner, provide a means through which the Everton Neighbourhood Plan can now move forward, beyond the development phase, towards the public referendum.

In summary, I am delighted to see you recognise that *“both parties have displayed a positive and proactive approach to collaborative working in the preparation of this plan”* as that is certainly the intention in supporting our communities to shape the places they live, work and play.

In accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2017, the Council as Local Planning Authority will be publishing the Examiners report accordingly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "BA. Alderton Sambrook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beverley Alderton-Sambrook
Head of Regeneration