**Examiner’s Clarifying Questions and Information Requests put to**

**Babworth Parish Council and Bassetlaw District Council**

**Questions and Information Requests to Parish Council**

**Question PC1**:

What is to be the formal name of the neighbourhood plan – Babworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan or the Babworth Neighbourhood Plan? – currently the plan uses both titles.

**Question PC2**

Most neighbourhood plans have a clear thread that runs from identified key issues to vision and objectives and then to policies and proposals in response. The BNP doesn’t identify early on what the key issues are although as the reader progresses through the plan it does become clearer. I will be suggesting that the Parish Council provides a short section of text for section 3 ahead of the vision that sets out what the key issues for the parish are that have emerged out of the preparation and consultation process and which can then lead into the vision and objectives. It would be helpful if this additional text could be provided before the examination completes. A bullet point summary of the key issues will be sufficient.

**Question PC3**

Re the development boundary – what is the rationale for the long extended strip along Blyth Road north of the main part of Ranby? Currently there is no justification set out.

**Question PC4**

Re the alternative sites set out in the AECOM Site Options Assessment Report – what happened to LAA056 Blyth Road which AECOM considered to be the best site? The now allocated site south of the Conifers was one of 4 identified as possible all below LAA056 in terms of preference. Possibly LAA056 has been developed but even so there should be clarity as to why the now allocated site was chosen – is it just a case of the others either being too small to meet the identified need or too large?

**Question PC5**

What is meant by the last paragraph on P19 – ‘population growth can be expected to be driven by the oldest households’? Does this mean demand for housing is driven by this age group and therefore it is the fastest growing age group?

**Question PC6**

Re BDC’s policy comments on policy ENV2 at Regulation 16 stage are there any important OS sites in the policy in need of improvement or enhancement?

**Question PC7**

Re BDC’s policy comments on policy ENV6 at Regulation 16 stage are there any particular footpaths to identify for improvement.

Also Re Policy ENV6 ‘appropriate mitigation’ is not clear as to what is intended. Presumably if loss of a footpath was involved it was intended that mitigation would include alternative provision?

**Question PC8**

What is the evidence base/justification of the height threshold for wind turbines in policy ENV8 as 50 metres to tip is now very small in industry terms?

**Question PC9**

Re community facilities and amenities - whilst the historic background to the churches is interesting - perhaps the more relevant point is the extent to which the buildings offer wider community services beyond worship. Please can you clarify?

**Question PC10**

On Page 49 in the top two paragraphs - what is the situation with home working and economic activity in the data from the 2021 census as this will be more relevant now than quoting 2011 data?

**Question PC11**

The justification in the supporting text to Policy E3 is exceptionally brief – what is the intent of the policy? - is it necessary because you want to develop/expand on the BLP policy on tourism? Please provide additional supporting text for this section.

Also in respect of E3 - is this intended to restrict tourism development to reuse of existing buildings and farm diversification schemes because if so this would put the policy in conflict with NPPF policy which does not restrict business growth in the rural economy in this way?

**Question PC12**

Re Policy T1 – the justification / evidence base for the policy is similarly ‘light’. Please provide additional supporting text for this section.

**Question PC13**

Re the section on Monitoring and Review – would the Parish commit to monitoring annually – is that the intent as the phrase ‘regular monitoring’ is unclear and could for example mean every 5 years ?

Also what are the examples of other monitoring that will be included?

**Question PC14**

With regard to the consultation statement and the Reg 14 pre submission consultation – were any events held or was it simply a case of making the plan available and notifying consultees and the community that it was published?

In particular how did the Parish ensure that traditionally hard to reach groups were engaged?

Is it right that only 6 consultees responded and only one from a resident at this pre-submission stage?

Also – at the draft policies consultation event in September 2023, of the attendees there, how many actually made comments on the policies?

**Questions to Bassetlaw District Council**

**Question BDC1**:

Two dates are given for the designation of the neighbourhood area in the documentation – 24/9/20 and 25/9/20 which is it?

**Question BDC2**

What is the specific concern in respect of policy ENV7? – when asking for a policy to be revisited it would be helpful to have an indication of the concern and the requested change. This helps ensure any recommended modifications actually resolve the point of concern.

**Question BDC3**

What is the specific concern in respect of policy ENV8? – when asking for a policy to be revisited it would be helpful to have an indication of the concern and the requested change. This helps ensure any recommended modifications actually resolve the point of concern.

**Question BDC 4**

What is the specific concern in respect of policy T1? – when asking for a policy to be revisited it would be helpful to have an indication of the concern and the requested change. This helps ensure any recommended modifications actually resolve the point of concern.

**Question BDC5**

Regarding BDC Conservation Team’s Reg 16 representations re page 28 of the neighbourhood plan - if the number of Non Designated Heritage Assets is to be added to the text , please provide the actual number of these and whether these are in a ‘local list’ recognised and maintained by the District Council?

Note – As I continue the examination I may have additional questions of clarification and these will be forwarded on.

P. D. Biggers

Independent Examiner

04 June 2025