

Berrick Salome Neighbourhood Development Plan

Examiner's Clarification Note

This Note sets out my initial comments on the submitted Plan. It also sets out areas where it would be helpful to have some further clarification. For the avoidance of any doubt matters of clarification are entirely normal at this early stage of the examination process.

Initial Comments

The Plan provides a distinctive vision for the neighbourhood area.

The presentation of the Plan is excellent in general, and in the connections made between its policies and the objectives in particular. The difference between the policies and the supporting text is very clear. The maps are very effective. The use of colour is helpful to the layout of the Plan.

The production of the Plan has been underpinned by very well-presented and detailed evidence. The separate evidence document is very helpful. It prevents the substantive Plan from being cluttered with information.

Points for Clarification

I have read the submitted documents and the representations made to the Plan. I have also visited the neighbourhood area. I am now in a position to raise issues for clarification with the Parish Council.

The comments made on the points in this Note will be used to assist in the preparation of my report and in recommending any modifications that may be necessary to the Plan to ensure that it meets the basic conditions. I set out specific policy clarification points below in the order in which they appear in the submitted Plan.

Policy BER1

Given the nature of the District settlement hierarchy is a settlement boundary for Rokemmarsh appropriate and evidence-based?

Policy BER2

This policy is generally well-designed. It reflects the character of the neighbourhood area. Within this positive context I am minded to recommend that the first two paragraphs are repositioned into the supporting text as they largely act as a context for the policy. Does the Parish Council have any comments on this proposition?

In addition, could the final two paragraphs (including the bullet points/technical criteria) be located in the supporting text?

Policy BER3

The general approach of the policy meets the basic conditions. However why does the final part of the policy support only one such scheme given that the opening element of the policy refers to 'an established need'?

Would the need for such developments possibly generate an ability to support further such proposals?

Policy BER6

This is a very well-developed policy

Is it intended that any development should meet all the listed principles or simply those which are applicable to the proposal concerned? Paragraph 5.22 suggest that the policy takes the latter approach however its wording suggests the former approach.

Policy BER7

This policy is another well-considered element of the Plan. I saw the importance of the facilities included in the policy in the neighbourhood area.

Representations

Does the Parish Council have comments on any of the representations made to the Plan?

Protocol for responses

I would be grateful for responses and the information requested by 4 July 2019. Please let me know if this timetable may be challenging to achieve. It is intended to maintain the momentum of the examination.

In the event that certain responses are available before others I am happy to receive the information on a piecemeal basis. Irrespective of how the information is assembled please could it all come to me directly from the District Council. In addition, please can all responses make direct reference to the policy or the matter concerned.

Andrew Ashcroft

Independent Examiner

Berrick Salome Neighbourhood Development Plan.

17 June 2019