14 May 2012

Dear Sir

Subject South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy Examination - WALLINGFORD
Cholsey Parish Council’s Comments on the National Planning Policy Framework relating to the soundness of SODC’s Core Strategy.

Cholsey Parish Council would like to comment on the NPPF as follows;
The Parish Council notes the words of Minister of State Greg Clark in his statement to Parliament endorsing the approach to localism and local planning set out in the NPPF, he emphasised the objectives of the framework are ‘to transfer power to communities and to give them more power and authority in the planning system than they have been used to having to have for many years.’ (24th April)

Cholsey Parish Council welcomes the high degree of importance the NPPF gives to Localism and local plans, firstly in para 1 which states (inter alia) ‘it provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities’

and in addition at Para 17 states that Core Planning principles should ‘be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area’

Further emphasis on localism and local planning is made in Para 150 which states (inter alia) ‘Local plans are the key to delivering sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities’

and finally at Para 183 ‘Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need’

Wallingford is an historic market town it was a difficult task to achieve such a radical expansion of this community and since 2007 SODC always sought to engage with the local community in the development of it’s Core Strategy and indeed completed several extensive public consultations and exhibitions at every stage of the Core Strategy’s lengthy process. SODC also worked closely with their local councils during the latter stages of the CS. In this area Cholsey Parish Council was one of the 3 Parish Councils and Wallingford Town Council group who were asked by SODC to form a working party to consider the options and take part in shaping the development of the CS. The working
party met regularly with officers and members of the District Council in order to achieve the best site allocation for our communities. As a result SODC finally allocated Site B as their preferred and most sustainable site. Cholsey Parish Council therefore considers SODC arrived at its decision to allocate site B at Wallingford in part because it placed so much emphasis on local views and opinions throughout the community and is entirely within the new approach to local planning contained within the NPPF.

Your faithfully,

Linda Butler
Parish Clerk
Cholsey Parish Council