

Judging by my past attempts, I'm not very good at this.

But I will try again.

There is nothing more right than the sites selected by Oundle for our town.

The alternatives only get through when facts are ignored.

This will all come out at examination, and the Local Plan will fail.

Oundle does not want the Local Plan to fail.

If it does we will be at the mercy of uncontrolled building throughout our town, as will you in the rest of the district.

The report says that the council has evidence to justify the three sites proposed in the Local Plan. It does not.

The three sites were selected after discounting the two best sites for reasons that will not pass the test of examination

The submitted development plans for Herne Road were ignored, and the Benefield Road site was eliminated because of the location of its festival field.

At examination our Neighbourhood Plan had two problems:-

- the approach to consultation
- the approach to site selection and appraisal,

On the first it was argued that the consultation carried out at Reg16 should have been carried out by repeating Regulation 14. This is a technicality, since the result would have been exactly the same, that is, the overwhelming support for the Neighbourhood Plan.

On the site selection we were badly advised to put all of the emphasis on an independently constructed SEA. When we used the ENC approach the result is much more positive, an undisputable endorsement of the Neighbourhood Plan sites.

Now contrast this with the Local Plan. Consultation has shown an overwhelming rejection of the Local Plan sites.

As for the site selection process, the examiner will just reject this because of the lack of evidence for the discounting of the sites at Benefield Road and Herne Road.

Benefield Road is located adjacent to two housing developments, with pedestrian and cycle access to the primary school, doctors and library. It is the only new site with a regular bus service, 2 per hour in each direction, too and from the town centre, Peterborough and Corby.

Herne Road is a peaceful location. It is well positioned on a road already used by public service vehicles, with rapid routes out of the town. Located alongside our new cricket pitch, it will have beautiful walks to the river and beyond.

By contrast Cotterstock Road and St Christopher's Drive have severe environmental and infrastructure problems.

The issue is not one of site viability. It is all about which sites are best for the town.

If we are to save the Local Plan then we have to make the Oundle site selection process more robust.

Ask your officers if they have confidence that they will not be challenged at examination, or in the courts.

Oundle is here to help.