



Theydon Bois Parish Council

Parish Office, Village Hall, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER

Email: parishclerk@theydon.org.uk

Hearing Statement, in relation to 'Matter 2: Context, Vision & Objectives, and Sustainable Development' (Day 2: Wednesday 13th February 2019)

23rd January 2019

Dear Mrs Louise St John Howe,

Thank you for your email of 20th January 2019, explaining the procedures set out for the Hearing Sessions of the Examination in Public for the 'Epping Forest District Local Plan, 2011-2033'. In our representation made at the time of the Regulation 19 Consultation, the Parish Council made reference to a number of aspects which we hoped would be considered further during the time of the Hearings.

As we have been allocated two dates on which we may attend the Hearing Sessions, and in the light of your email mentioned above, we understand that we may be permitted to speak, on the topics that we raised, during those two sessions, but also noted one particular question put to Epping Forest District Council in the Planning Inspector's 'Matters, Issues and Questions', as follows:

(Day 2) Matter 2: Issue 1: Question 3: Do the vision and objectives adequately reflect the Plan's aims for air quality, green and blue infrastructure, protection of the landscape and biodiversity, and healthy living? Should specific reference be made to the aim of conserving and enhancing the historic environment, including archaeology?

We had made reference to this aspect in our previous Representation, so would like to submit this as a brief 'Hearing Statement', for consideration on the second day of the Hearings, being Wednesday 13th February 2019, when the topic will be considered further by the Planning Inspector.

However, as we have not been invited to speak directly on Day 2, the Parish Council does not request to attend this early session, but would like to make reference to the issue at the time when we are invited to speak on the Development Management Policies, currently scheduled for discussion on Tuesday 26th March 2019, which we hope will be acceptable.

We look forward to attending the Hearing Sessions on Tuesday 26th March 2019, and Thursday 16th May 2019 (Matter 15: Policy P8: Theydon Bois), as allocated, and thank you again for your time and consideration.

MATTER 2: Context, Vision & Objectives, and Sustainable Development

'Vision for the District' and 'Local Plan Objectives'

The National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: Economic, Social and Environmental, which are deemed to be mutually dependent. Therefore, it is reasonable to anticipate that in formulating a new Local Development Plan, the 'Vision for the District' and the 'Objectives of the Local Plan' should reflect how the policies within it will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

One concern that the Parish Council wishes to raise is that, whilst the **Strategic Policy SP 7** references the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and the landscape character, together with improvements to the District's green and blue Infrastructure, there is nothing that directly reflects the importance of these aspects in either the 'Vision', or the 'Objectives'.

As a Strategic Policy, we are of the view that some of its objectives should be incorporated into the above sections, given the extent to which the District is primarily characterised by the extent of its green environs and the natural landscape, which also provides the setting for many of its settlements. Epping Forest and the Lea Valley Regional Park, together with designated Wildlife Sites, are important components, but it is the wider landscape character that typifies the District.

We would, therefore, respectfully suggest that some additional wording is incorporated to reflect the above, to ensure consistency between the 'Vision', the 'Objectives' and the Strategic Policies.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Carroll, Clerk to the Council