

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE GOTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Bob Yuille Msc Dip TP MRTPI

Ms Judy Raven
Clerk to Gotham Parish Council

Mr John Anderson
Gotham Parish Council

cc: Mr John King
Rushcliffe Borough Council

Examination Ref: 01/RY/GNP

28th February 2019

Dear Ms Raven and Mr Anderson

GOTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Gotham Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for examination, I would like to clarify an initial matter.

I can confirm I am satisfied that I have received a complete submission of the Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to undertake the examination. However, from my initial reading of the Plan and the submitted evidence, I have an initial issue I wish to raise in relation to the Plan's allocation of housing sites and approach to the alteration of Green Belt boundaries.

The Plan was submitted before the 24th January 2019. That being so, it falls to be examined in the context of the 2012 version of the National Planning Policy Framework.¹

It appears that the Plan (Policy H1) proposes a number of housing sites that are currently in Green Belt – for example site GOT 01 and site GOT 03. This is tantamount to altering Green Belt boundaries by taking land out of it. The 2012 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 83) states '*...Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan.*' (emphasis added). In other words, it is not within the remit of the Plan to alter Green Belt boundaries as is proposed in policy H1. The Plan does not appear to have regard to national policy in this respect.

I am of course aware that the 2018 (and subsequent 2019) version of the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 136) does allow for detailed amendments to be made to Green Belt boundaries through neighbourhood plans, where the need for this has been established through strategic policies - but, as has been established above, it is the 2012 version of the National Planning Policy Framework that is relevant to this examination. The terms of the transitional arrangements in

¹ Paragraph 214 of Annex 1 to the 2018 and revised 2019 versions of the Framework.

paragraph 214 are very clear, and there is no indication of any flexibility or discretion to be afforded to the application of the respective versions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

I would welcome any comments you have on this matter and whether you can provide any further clarification within 2 weeks of the date of this letter.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure that a copy of this letter and any response is placed on the Qualifying Body and the Borough Council websites.

Your sincerely

Bob Yuille

Bob Yuille
Examiner