

21 February 2017

Dear Representor,

## **Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Examination**

My records show that you/your organisation submitted representations on the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan. The Local Plan has been formally submitted to the Secretary of State and is currently subject to Independent Examination.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Programme Officer responsible for assisting the Inspector with all aspects of the Examination administration.

The Secretary of State has appointed Mark Dakeyne BA (Hons) MRTPI of the Planning Inspectorate to conduct the Examination process. Please note that all communications for the Inspector should be sent to me. To ensure his impartiality the Inspector will not communicate directly with any party, including the Council, outside the formal examination sessions.

A Pre-Hearing Meeting will not be held. Instead the Inspector explains the procedure for the Examination in a Guidance Note which is attached. Please feel free to contact me if anything needs clarification. In addition, the best place to go to keep up to date with the Examination process is the Examination webpage, a link to which is provided below.

<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/planning-a-building-control/local-plan-2015-16/local-plan-examination>

The webpage will be frequently updated and include all correspondence, evidence, representations and other documentation relevant to the Examination (the Examination Library). For those without internet access, please contact me to arrange to view the Examination Library which is held in hard copy form in the Programme Office, Matlock Town Hall.

The Inspector has been provided with copies of all representations. He has asked me to point out that representations made in writing (or by e-mail) carry the same weight as those pursued by appearance at any of the hearing sessions. Some of you have already indicated that you wish to participate in the hearing sessions. But for the avoidance of doubt **I would welcome confirmation of whether you wish to take part in the hearings by Friday 10 March.**

The Examination Hearings are likely to last for about 3 weeks and Stage 1 hearings have been timetabled to start during the week commencing 8 May. Further information is contained in the Guidance Note.

Once participation in the hearings is confirmed the Inspector will finalise a programme for the hearings and a schedule of matters and issues to be discussed at the hearings. This will be circulated to those participating in the hearings and will form the basis for any further information that the Inspector needs. In the meantime please do not submit any further information or representations. A preliminary summary of matters and issues for the examination is attached.

The Inspector has been undertaking his initial assessment of the Local Plan, including legal compliance and soundness having regard to the submitted documents, the evidence base and representations. He has raised some preliminary questions with the Council which can be seen on the Examination website together with the Council's responses.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance at any time over the weeks ahead. I can be reached by phone or email or you can make an appointment to come in to the Council offices.

Yours sincerely

*Carmel Edwards*

Programme Officer

Enclosed:

1. Guidance Note
2. Summary of Matters and Issues