

From: Steve Carnaby
To: Mr Van der Pas
Cc: Redacted
Date: Mon, 30 Jun 2025 07:57:20 +0000
Subject: Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan - Your emails to IPe Enquiries

Dear Mr Van, der Pas

Thank you for your emails of 22 and 23 June 2025 to the Examiner, Andrew Mead, concerning the examination of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan).

As you are aware, the Plan was most recently subject to a statutory public consultation for 11 weeks from Friday 24 January until Thursday 10 April 2025. The starting point for Mr Mead's examination is those documents formally submitted by Dorset Council, which were published as part of that consultation exercise, and the resultant representations duly made through the consultation process.

The Examiner has asked me to advise you that the statutory procedure envisages that no other submissions should be made to an examiner, unless specifically requested. In this respect, the Examiner sent a list of questions to Weymouth Town Council (the Qualifying Body) and Dorset Council on 2 June 2025. Responses to these questions were provided on 20 June 2025 by both the Qualifying Body and Dorset Council and are available to view on the following link:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/weymouth-neighbourhood-plan>

In the interest of fairness, the Examiner acknowledges your intention to submit comments on the respective responses provided to his questions. This being the case, the Examiner would be grateful if you can seek to submit your comments at the earliest opportunity (and no later than **Monday 14 July 2025**) in order that the examination should not be unduly delayed.

In terms of the appropriateness of convening a public hearing session, the general rule is that the examination of the issues by an examiner takes the form of the (desk based) consideration of written representations. The necessity to hold a hearing session arises only **where the examiner considers** that the consideration of oral representations is necessary, either to ensure adequate examination of an issue or to ensure a person has a fair chance to put a case. Therefore, the decision as to whether a hearing is necessary is entirely within the exercise of the reasonable judgement of an examiner. At this stage, the Examiner considers that all parties have to date had an adequate opportunity to submit their detailed written comments and that he has sufficient information to make his assessment. Accordingly, he does not presently consider a hearing is necessary.

Finally, the scope of the examination is related to land use planning matters and the statutory steps associated with producing the Plan. In terms of allegations of misconduct, of either a Qualifying Body or Local Planning Authority arising during the production of a neighbourhood plan, examiners have no authority to consider such allegations. Matters of this nature should be dealt with through internal complaints handling procedures of the Qualifying Body or Local Planning Authority. Similarly, an examiner has no authority to comment or intervene on issues of alleged non-compliance (or otherwise) in matters related to requests under the Freedom of Information/Environmental Information procedures made to public bodies.

Best wishes

Steve Carnaby

Associate Director

Tel:: [REDACTED]

Web: www.intelligentplans.co.uk

Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd

3 Princes Street

Bath

BA1 1HL

Registered in England and Wales (Company No. 10100118).



*Disclaimer. The information in this mail is confidential and solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). If you receive this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the email from your system immediately. In such circumstances, you must not make any use of the email or its contents. Views expressed by an individual in this email do not necessarily reflect the views of **Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd**. Computer viruses may be transmitted by email. **Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd** accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email. Email transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error free. It is possible that information may be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete or contain viruses. The sender does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which may arise as a result of email transmission.*