

Dear Mr Carnaby,

I understand you are collating comments regarding the examination of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) and responses from Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council on the examination of the Plan and as such may I raise two main points:

Firstly, the Neighbourhood Plan area is plainly wrong and needs to be corrected. This is a fundamental necessity to have this correct. At the very least, the Plan area needs to accord with the boundaries of Weymouth, and this has been known since April 2024 at the latest. There is no “map 1a” shown anywhere as described by Dorset Council in their response to you. The Plan Area needs to be redrawn and resubmitted to encompass the changes. At the moment hundreds of people in, say, Bincombe Park in Littlemoor have been excluded and this number is set to rise into the thousands, if that site gets completed. This is a significant part of Weymouth’s population.

Also, Chickerell and Sutton Pontz have Neighbourhood Plans but most people consider them part of Weymouth in the same way Preston has been included. Already, a known development at the time The Plan was submitted (240 homes at Weymouth Bay and within the present defined boundaries) is moving forward but was excluded from the Plan.

Secondly, there has been virtually no residents engagement and I would hope from what you have now read from various residents that you will consider again the importance to the people of examining some of these more difficult issues in public and putting the conflicting points raised to scrutiny. In particular, Preston residents all feel unfairly treated because the Steering Group of Weymouth Town Council refused to meet with them to discuss their concerns about their homes being flooded as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan development proposals. Cllr Northam, chair of the SG, confirmed in public meeting on 20th November 2024 (which I attended) that he would do so. Please refer to page 291 to the link of the 20th November 2024 minutes given above for these words: “Cllr Northam stated that members of the Steering Group met with Cllr Peter Dickenson and Cllr O’Leary a few weeks ago. At that time, he offered to speak to Preston residents, and that offer still stands.” In the event, he did not meet with residents but instead by 6th December hastened to send The Plan off to Dorset Council having made significant number of changes which neither the people, nor, I imagine, the council were aware of. He then made further changes before giving it to Dorset Council on 15th January 2025. This is not “fairness” and needs to be addressed by The Examiner, preferably in public session where he will be able to hear from the people directly.

Yours sincerely,

John & Sarah Baldwin