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NorthDorset Local Plan Pre-submi...

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RESPONDENTS: 33 of 33

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Respondent #32

All Pages

#32



COMPLETE

Collector: North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (Web Link)  
Started: Friday, January 24, 2014 3:31:37 PM  
Last Modified: Friday, January 24, 2014 4:10:53 PM  
Time Spent: 00:39:16  
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Q1: Personal Details

Name: Michael Burt

Organisation: Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council

Address 1: [REDACTED]

Address 2: [REDACTED]

City/Town: [REDACTED]

State/Province: [REDACTED]

ZIP/Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Country: United Kingdom

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Q2: Agent Details (if applicable) - All correspondence will be sent to the agent.

Respondent skipped this question

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Q3: 1. Please select the document you are commenting on:

North Dorset Local Plan 2011 to 2026 Part 1 (please complete Questions 2 to 9)

Q4: 2. To which part of the above document does your representation relate?

Respondent skipped this question

Q5: 3. Do you consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant and prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements?

No

Q6: 4. Do you consider the Local Plan to be 'sound'?

No

Q7: 5. If you consider the Local Plan to be unsound please specify your reason(s) by ticking the box(es) that apply below

- It has not been positively prepared
- It is not effective
- It is not consistent with national policy

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**Q8: 6. Please give specific details of why you consider the Local Plan has not been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate, legal or procedural requirement or why you consider the plan to be unsound. Alternatively, if you wish to support any aspects of the plan please also use this box to set out your comments.**

The duty to co-operate and the involvement of the community would require good consultation to have taken place. When one of the scoping documents went for consultation in 2009 only one parish council responded this ought to have rung alarm bells at the District Council. My council's representations over how the public were informed that consultations were taking place were ignored and NDDC ploughed on regardless. Responses to the 2012 document were equally dismal, if one looks at the response analysis none of the questions asked achieved 200 responses, that cannot be acceptable information with which to prepare a plan. This was again exemplified over the pre-submission consultation which presents a 600 page document plus supplementaries with only 4 roadshows throughout the district. The roadshows were predominantly in working time and the whole process was expected to take place in the Christmas/New Year period, this again was not conducive to good community involvement.

Regarding the plan itself -

The RSS had looked at the potential need for housing in North Dorset and a figure of 8376 had been extrapolated, in the early days of the plan NDDC felt that that figure was too high and settled on a figure of 7000 as being a more sustainable number. The figure has now been reduced to 4200, this has to be against the national policy as that policy suggests we need more houses not less.

The RSS strategy and the early formation of the plan indicated that Stalbridge and the villages required further development to make them more sustainable. The Matthew Taylor report produced at the request of the Prime Minister of the day in 2008 went into great detail regarding sustainability issues. Pages 40 - 46 of that report deals with the issue of sustainability in villages, it is quite obvious that the district council either have not read the report or have chosen to ignore it.

Policy 20 which removes the settlement boundaries and opens up all villages to the Countryside Policy is much too restrictive to fulfill the needs as outlined in the Matthew Taylor report. We now have vacant sites that need to be re-occupied and bring back jobs to the area. This would also entail housing for workers on those sites.

Representations to NDDC to change paragraph 20 policy has been unsuccessful. We do not feel that consultation in general has been in line with legal compliance and therefore the plan is unsound.

**Q9: 7. What change(s) do you consider are necessary to ensure that the Local Plan is legally compliant and sound? It would be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

As far as my parish council is concerned, despite constant representations to NDDC to change the working of Policy 20 they have not been prepared to do so. To have the village of Okeford Fitzpaine covered by the Countryside Policy when we have recently lost nearly 500 jobs, partly due to a lack of support from NDDC, and have vacant sites which need to be reused makes this totally unacceptable. The policy needs to be much more flexible and cater for those who wish to have development and those who choose not to. The present policy is a NIMBY's charter.

Bearing in mind that the policies which we choose now should serve us and should not be to the detriment of those who come after us.

Insufficient positive consultation has taken place and needs to happen if the policy is to serve the villages both now and in the future.

This again demonstrates that the plan is unsound.

**Q10: 8. If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate in the oral part of the examination?**

Yes, I would like to participate in the oral examination

**Q11: 9. If you wish to participate in the oral part of the examination please outline why you consider that to be necessary. Please note that the Inspector determines who is heard at the examination.**

Up to now we have tried to get NDDC to change this policy without success. In the last fortnight I have posed questions to them which they decline to answer. They will not doubt robustly defend their position. There needs to be counter argument to their submission if the inspector is to make a proper assessment.

**Q12: 10. Please outline your comments on the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report or Habitats Regulations Assessment. Comments are not confined to 'soundness' issues, but respondents can express their opinions on the above documents and use it as a reference point on the 'soundness' of the Local Plan.**

The early sustainability assessment advocated village and hamlet development to improve sustainability, that in our view still holds good.

**Q13: 11. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following? Please tick all that apply. We will contact you using the details you have given above.**

The adoption of the Local Plan Part 1.

The publication of the recommendations of any person appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Local Plan Part 1

That the Local Plan Part 1 has been submitted for independent examination