



Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

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Kevin Barron MP
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29th October, 2012.

Dear Kevin

Thank you for your letter dated 11 July 2012, (copy provided 24th October) I apologise for the lack of response but the Council has no record of receiving the original.

In relation to your query I am aware that Karl Battersby and members of the Planning team have been holding meetings with ward members and the Green Belt Group in relation to the Local Plan. I am also aware that they have met with Mr Sadler to discuss the progress of the work and his concerns.

With reference to the impact of the submissions made by the Green Belt group I am aware that some confusion may have arisen over which document the group's input would influence. To recap, the Council is preparing a Local Plan consisting of two documents. The Core Strategy will set out the overall housing target for the Borough, broad locations for growth and strategic policies. The Sites & Policies document will allocate specific sites for development on a OS map and contain detailed policies to guide determination of planning applications.

The group's useful suggestions of alternative sites are being considered by council officers and will inform drafting of the Sites and Policies document. We had intended to consult on the Sites & Policies document in late 2012 but the need to prioritise work on the Core Strategy has delayed this. We now anticipate consultation in early 2013. In due course, elected members will decide on the final content of the Sites & Policies document.

As a separate exercise, the Council published the Core Strategy for consultation over summer 2012. In light of the group's concerns, prior to publication we amended the vision statement in the Core Strategy to remove reference to Dinnington East and instead to refer to the broader Dinnington, Anston and Laughton Common area. The group did consider making formal comments on this consultation but ultimately did not submit any objections. We will submit the Core Strategy to government in due course along with a schedule of minor changes resulting from consultation responses.

To sum up, the group's suggestion of alternative sites will be considered in drafting the Sites and Policies document and can therefore influence the choice of individual sites in and around the Dinnington area. However, the Council is not proposing to make any further changes to the strategy and broad locations for growth set out in the Core Strategy as published in summer 2012."

Yours sincerely,

G. Smith

Councillor G. Smith