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Local Plan - Knowsley Greenbelt Land

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2015 22:23:57
To: gregclarkmp@parliament.uk (gregclarkmp@parliament.uk)

Dear Mr Clark

I am writing to ask for your immediate involvement and advice concerning the Local Plan submitted by Knowsley MBC for the borough of Knowsley. The consultation for the Local Plan began in 2009. I became aware of the Local Plan in November 2014. I am currently attending reconvened examination hearings that were arranged by the Inspector, Mr Pike, following a much larger response from the public to the consultation than had been received by the council at previous stages. The hearing dates are 2 June 2015, today 3 June 2015 and I will be attending again tomorrow 4 June 2015 in order to complete the agenda items.

During the hearings it has become apparent that consultation with the community is not as Knowsley MBC claims although it seems that the Inspector accepts the evidence put forward by Knowsley MBC concerning consultation with the community. In 2009 the consultation process began with the council using a 200 metre distance between each of the proposed planning sites and established housing sites as the area to use in order to consult with the community. The sites proposed for planning make up a huge area with the density of the sites unclear and because of the impact the development of such a huge area will have upon Knowsley as well as Liverpool all residents within Knowsley should have been consulted. To use distance in metres as a measure and part of the methodology to inform and engage with the public is inappropriate. The council has told those attending the hearings this week that 66,000 residents were consulted (less than half the population of Knowsley) but the council has not presented evidence to show that each and every person contacted was able to read the literature, to understand the literature, was able to articulate a response to the literature or in need of help to understand and respond to the literature. It is also apparent that social issues have not been taken into account adequately. I do not know if Knowsley MBC prepared a statement of community involvement and whether the statement was discussed with the community at the start of the consultation process or at previous stages. These are questions I will ask at tomorrow's hearing.

On the website for the Department for Communities and Local Government I have come across the policy paper entitled *2010 to 2015 government policy: planning reform*, published 7 May 2015. I accessed this document via a hyperlink contained within a written statement to parliament prepared by the Rt Hon Eric Pickles and published on 26 March 2015. The published dates and the title of the document are confusing as it implies the information is retrospective. I will ask the Inspector for clarification. The written statement and the policy paper have not been mentioned at this week's hearings and I will ask tomorrow if the paper has been discussed at previous stages. The content of the policy paper is important and valuable information for the community that allows for and encourages empowerment.

I am now attempting to catch up with a process that began six years ago whilst having the prospect of the Local Plan being approved formally within weeks. The impression of members of the public attending this week's hearings is that the Local Plan for Knowsley was approved informally some time ago. The opportunity to ask questions tomorrow may not arise as it would

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involve revisiting matters already discussed either at this week's hearings or at previous stages, which Mr Pike does not wish to do.

I ask again for your immediate involvement and advice concerning the withdrawal of local development documents.

Regards
Paula Dagnall
Resident of Knowsley