

TURVEY PARISH COUNCIL

To: Sonia Gallagher

At: Bedford Borough Council

Re: Turvey Neighbourhood Plan

4th June 2021

Further to your e-mail dated 25.05.21 Turvey Parish Council wish that a formal objection be registered on its behalf with respect to some of the changes made to the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan in following the Independent Examination Report as encapsulated in the Post Examination Decision Statement.

The Parish Council feel strongly and that some of the recommended amendments have severely diluted the sensible protective provisions included in the original Neighbourhood Plan. We also object to the lack of democracy implicit in BBC accepting all of the recommended changes on our behalf, with no consultation with the Parish Council. We had been led to believe that it was our local plan, yet you have taken unilateral action as if BBC have ownership of it. This seriously undermines local democracy.

The following are of particular concern:

PM3: Pavement Improvements

In many parts of the Parish the pavements do not comply with current minimum safety width and condition guidance. This has formally been brought to the Borough Council's attention. Section 5.106 of the Plan was meant to specifically highlight this issue. This was the result of much discussion at the Parish Council. Without it I doubt that the Plan would have been accepted. Although it is accepted that any proposed related residential development in Carlton Road or Newton Lane would have to stand the test of separate planning scrutiny it is felt that, given the known non-compliance, this express requirement should not have been deleted. Indeed, we wish this to be retained.

PM4: Local Green Space

Whilst the Parish Council understands the technical difference in the proposed change to the wording of Policy T5 it still feels that it is imperative that any residential development flanking Local Green Space should preserve and protect the existing amenity. We feel that the phrase "*should seek to*" is too weak.

PM5: Impact of Drainage

Turvey has a number of local water courses and a history of localised flooding along with long unresolved drainage problems in Newton Lane. Deleting the statement at Policy T6 completely in favour of the requirement of the Local Plan does not take account of the specific concern that the Parish Council was trying to articulate.

PM6: Heritage Assets

Can it be confirmed that the Examiners suggestion as to a text addition at Paragraph 5.89 has been included in the Referendum Version of the Neighbourhood Plan?

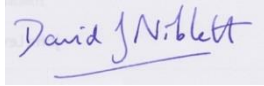
PM7: Transport.

The Parish Council would like formal assurance that the local road safety issues raised recently in a formal petition to Bedford Borough Council will be taken into account when considering related planning applications in the Parish.

PM8 We agree that the word "granted" should be replaced by "supported".

I await a response at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J Niblett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Dr David Niblett

Chair Turvey Parish Council

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