



BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Jane Fleming
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3 Waggoners Close
Bubbenhall
CV8 3JE

3rd July 2015

Sent electronically to:

The Secretary of State, Mr Greg Clark

gregclarkmp@parliament.uk;
greg.clark@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Warwick District Local Plan

We have just seen Warwick District Council's letter to you dated 6th June asking you to call in the examination of their proposed Local Plan. We write to you because we consider that WDC's letter is seriously misleading in some respects.

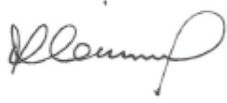
We, and other interested parties objecting to aspects of WDC's proposed plan, were excluded from participation in the initial hearings of the examination because these were dedicated to issues of housing and the Duty to Cooperate. Our main issues concern employment land and the Green Belt. Despite this very restricted initial examination, WDC's letter places great weight on employment aspects and invites you to judge the plan to be sound. We consider that such an approach would be seriously flawed.

WDC's letter equates the proposed 'sub-regional employment site' to the 'Gateway' planning applications. As part of The Community Group, which encompasses Baginton, Bubbenhall and Stoneleigh parishes, we participated in the Inquiry which led to rejection of the Gateway applications by your predecessor earlier this year (Decision Letter dated 12th February 2015, reference APP/U4610/V/13/2202736 & APP/T3725/V/13/2202738). WDC claims that "your predecessor insisted that this site should come forward through the local plan process". We consider that WDC's claim grossly distorts the facts in the Decision Letter (e.g. paragraphs 13-17 and 25). Major employment development on this site would cause substantial harm to the Green Belt (e.g. its openness) and there is no compelling economic case for a development of the scale proposed. There are no 'very special circumstances' or exceptional circumstances that make this site unique and would justify undermining the intended permanence of the Green Belt.

We consider that the employment and Green Belt policies proposed in Warwick District's local plan must be examined rigorously; we judge them to be unsound and even less

sustainable than the Gateway proposal already rejected. Whichever approach you decide to take in response to WDC's request, we trust that we will have an equitable opportunity to put forward our reasoned objections to the proposed policies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J Fleming', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane Fleming
Bubbenhall Parish Clerk