



David Lovell
Save Capel

21st January 2020

Sent by Email Only

Dear Mr Lovell

Letter dated 18th February 2020 from Save Capel

Thank you for your letter dated 18th February 2019.

I have addressed your points below, in turn:

1) Timetable for Local Plan

The Council received over 2,000 individual responses to the Regulation 18 consultation on the Draft Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal, which amount to 8,000 comments on different policies and sections of the plan, topic papers, supporting documentation, etc. Each and every response is now being reviewed, and the main issues arising from these are being identified, together with further work required in light of these.

As set out on the website, and in the communication which was sent out notifying everyone who had submitted a representation that the comments are now on the Council's website, *"this [review and subsequent work] may extend the current timetable for when the Pre-Submission Local Plan is due be published – which is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme (September 2019). In this event, a revised Scheme will be published and an Update provided"*.

Until the Council has completed the review of the representations and associated work I am afraid that we are not in a position to confirm whether there will be a need to adjust the current timetable or not, but as has been explained if there is a need to do so then the extended timetable will be set out in a revision to the Local Development Scheme.

2) Additional sites submitted during and after the Regulation 18 consultation period

I would draw your attention to this recently updated Strategic and Economic Land Availability Assessment [SHEELA] webpage on the Council's website:

<https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/local-plan/evidence/resources/housing/strategic-housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment>

This webpage has been updated so that information on the location of all of the sites submitted can be found by clicking on the link to the "interactive map". Sites are recorded as falling into one of the following categories, which are differentiated by colour on the map:

- a) Sites assessed within the SHELAA, July 2019. These include:
 - i) sites submitted through the call for sites;
 - ii) sites received after the call for sites referred to as 'late sites' [prefixed 'LS'] received prior to 22 February 2019;

- b) New sites submitted during the Draft Local Plan public consultation [prefixed DPC] [NB There may be sites assessed in the SHELAA, July 2019 which were also commented upon as part of the Draft Local Plan consultation, but these are not separately identified if not new sites.]

- c) Further sites submitted after the SHELAA cut-off and outside the Draft Local Plan consultation period [prefixed FS]

You will be able to identify the sites using the map.

The webpage also states "*please note that anyone wishing us to consider a further site for inclusion in the Local Plan may still do so for a limited period of time*" and provides details on how any such site should be provided to the Council. As the work I have outlined under point 1 progresses the Council will update the webpage to provide the "cut off" date for new submissions.

3) Allocation of sites in Capel Parish

As explained under point 1 above, all representations are currently being considered. These will inform the next version of the Local Plan (the "Pre-Submission" version). Therefore at this time, and whilst this work is being undertaken, the Council is not in a position to provide comment on whether any proposed policies in the Draft Local Plan will be amended, or indeed removed.

4) Invitation to attend Save Capel AGM on 9th March 2020

Thank you for your invitation to attend the above. As you know, I have been able to attend every meeting that I have been invited to by Save Capel, with the exception of the third "drop in" session at the Goldsmid Hall during the Draft Local Plan consultation, due to clashes of commitments. However, I am afraid that I am not able to accept the invitation for the 9th March due to a prior commitment that I have that evening, which I am unfortunately unable to re-arrange.

Therefore in my absence, I would be happy for the following to be relayed:

"Thank you for the invitation to attend this meeting: unfortunately I am unable to attend in person due to another long-standing commitment that I have this evening.

Following the extensive "Regulation 18" consultation undertaken in September to November 2019 on the Draft Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal, together with the range of supporting topic papers and evidence base, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is now reviewing and considering the representations received.

There were over 2,000 individual responses, which amount to over 8,000 individual comments on different policies and sections of the Plans.

All of these responses are now available on the Council's website, and I would suggest that if people are interested in these that they look at the Local Plan pages on the website, particularly at <https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/local-plan/local-plan-comments>.

These comments have been published ahead of the next iteration of the Local Plan, so people can see the full extent of others' comments on particular issues.

I should emphasise that there is no consultation on the submitted comments themselves, and if the Council requires any clarification or further information, it will contact the organisation or individual concerned.

There will, of course, be a further opportunity to make representations when the next version of the Local Plan (the "Pre-Submission Local Plan"), which will have taken into account the duly-made comments, is published.

Given the volume and range of issues raised in the representations, it will inevitably take some time to fully consider them. This may extend the current timetable for when the Pre-Submission Local Plan is due to be published – which is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme (September 2019). In this event, a revised Scheme will be published on the Council's website and an update provided.

As a final point, I am sure that you can appreciate that whilst the work is undertaken on analysing the responses to the Regulation 18 consultation that we are not in a position to provide extensive comment on the next version of the Local Plan. I would advise that the Council will continue to provide updates by email, in "Local" (the Council's quarterly issued magazine, which is sent to every residence in the borough), and on the Council's Local Plan webpages.

Thank you again for the invitation to attend this evening".

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'S.' followed by a stylized, cursive signature.

Steve Baughen
Head of Planning Services