

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF HULME WALFIELD AND SOMERTON BOOTHS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Mary O'Rourke BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

Julie Mason
Clerk to Hulme Walfield and Somerton Booths Parish Council

cc: Tom Evans
Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Cheshire East Council

Examination Ref: 01/MOR/HW

Via email: jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com

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10 October 2017

Dear Ms Mason and Mr Evans

HULME WALFIELD AND SOMERTON BOOTHS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Hulme Walfield and Somerton Booths Neighbourhood Plan for examination, I would like to clarify several initial procedural matters.

1. Examination Documentation

I can confirm that I have received a complete submission of the draft Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to undertake the examination.

I have also been provided with a document entitled on the first page as the Hulme Walfield and Somerton Booths Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion Prepared by Cheshire East Council, April 2017. This document is also on the Council's website. The pages are all stamped DRAFT and despite the title, the Introduction refers to the Weston and Basford Parish Council and section 1.4 refers to the saved policies of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan which do not apply to the Parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerton Booths. However, I note that the Summary of the Screening Assessment does refer to Hulme Walfield and Somerton Booths Neighbourhood Plan. I would appreciate if the Council could provide me with a corrected final version of the SEA Screening Opinion for the Hulme Walfield and Somerton Booths Neighbourhood Plan.

Subject to my receipt of this and my detailed assessment of the draft Plan, I have not at this initial stage identified any very significant and obvious flaws in the Plan that might lead me to advise that the examination should not proceed.

2. Site Visit

I intend to undertake a site visit to the neighbourhood plan area during the week commencing 9 October 2017. This will assist in my assessment of the draft Plan, including the issues identified in the representations.

The site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. It is very important that I am not approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice my independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

3. Written Representations

At this stage, I consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing. However, I will reserve the option to convene a hearing should a matter(s) come to light where I consider that a hearing is necessary to ensure the adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

4. Further Clarification

I may have a number of questions seeking clarification on various matters, which I will wish to put to the Parish Council and/or Cheshire East Council. If this is necessary, I will set the questions out in a separate letter.

5. Examination Timetable

As you will be aware, the intention is to examine the Plan (including conducting the site visit) with a view to providing a draft report (for 'fact checking') within 4-6 weeks of submission of the draft Plan. However, in this case, I doubt that I can reasonably meet that indicative timetable as, in the interests of efficiency and to limit costs, I have timed my site visit so as to do it on the same day as that for the adjoining Somerton Neighbourhood Plan. Once I have conducted the site visit, the IPE office team will provide an indication of the expected date for receipt of my draft report.

If you or the qualifying body have any process questions related to the conduct of the examination, which you would like me to address, please do not hesitate to contact the office team in the first instance.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this letter is placed on both the local authority's and Parish Council's websites.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

Mary O'Rourke

Examiner