

Examination of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan

Response to Examiner's Preliminary Question from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC)

This document provides SCDC's response to the preliminary questions for the District Council on the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan raised by the Examiner, Andrew Freeman, in his clarification note dated 2 March 2021.

Questions for South Cambridgeshire District Council

1. Some of the points raised by the District Council may have been overtaken by events, for example, the reference to OS mapping copyright in 68601; to fabric efficiency in 68602; and to the local environment in 68614. Although the representations were "received" on 16 February 2021, do they represent the very latest comments of the District Council, post-dating the liaison meeting with the Parish Council on 6 August 2019?

The District Council reviewed all the comments it had made for the pre-submission consultation of the Foxton neighbourhood plan. Only those issues that we consider still appropriate to be brought to the attention of the examiner were included in the Report agreed by Stephen Kelly, the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development.

- The reference to OS mapping copyright in 68601
Whilst many of the maps included in the Foxton Plan do now clearly have the OS copyright there are some where this is not clearly visible
 - Figure 10: Local Plan Policy Designations – this does not appear to have any copyright on the map.
 - Figure 11i: High Street West
 - Figure 11iii: High Street East
 - Figures 22: Site allocated for housing on Station Road, Foxton
 - Figure 25: Public footpaths, cycleways and public transport
 - Figure 30B: Policies Map for village settlement area
 - to fabric efficiency in 68602 Agree. This wording has been amended in the policy so wrongly included in SCDC's comments on the Plan
 - to the local environment in 68614
Agree that only one site is shown on the Policies Map but do not consider that there is explicit recognition of heritage assets/the historic environment within the wording of the policy.
2. Does the District Council wish to comment on any of the third-party representations?
 - a. Representation 68579 by Howard Sargent and Representation 68600 by Jamie Trinidad – SCDC would be concerned if further edges were identified as sensitive around the village as this could devalue those that are already identified in the Plan and are particularly valued by the community. We do not

consider that neighbourhood plans should be overly protective of their surroundings which could restrict any future development within Foxton.

- b. Representation 68581 by Natural England – SCDC support the comments made regarding the use of Impact Risk Zones to mitigate any adverse impacts from development proposed in FOX/9 and FOX/20.
- c. Representation 68582 by Cambridgeshire County Council – SCDC recognise that a neighbourhood plan does not have to include a full range of policies and that the County Council is incorrect to assume that a plan must include flood risk or surface water drainage policies.
- d. Representation 68589 by John McCombie – SCDC supports the inclusion of a policy for land at Burlington Park.
- e. Representations 68590- 92 and 68594-95 – by Cambridgeshire County Council – SCDC recognise the rights of the County Council to object as landowners to policies that impact their land holdings within Foxton.
- f. Representations 68620 – 22 by R2 Developments Limited. – SCDC does not agree that the Plan should have considered for allocation the two sites being proposed by this developer which are within the Green Belt. A neighbourhood plan cannot amend the Green Belt to allow for development unless there is a strategic policy in the adopted Local Plan to support the amendment of the boundary – there is no such policy in the currently adopted Local Plan.

The emerging Local Plan is considering what development strategy to follow and what housing requirement numbers it should plan for – it would be premature for the neighbourhood plan to have second guessed the outcome of this work. The neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan.

Work on the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan has not assessed all the sites put forward during the Call for Sites so we would not expect the neighbourhood plan to have taken account of these sites.