

Alan Wood MSc FRICS
c/o Ms G. Alexander
Programme Officer
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne
CB23 6EA

Planning & New Communities
Contact: Caroline Hunt
Direct dial: 01954 71713196
Email: ldf@scambs.gov.uk

2 February 2017

Dear Mr Wood

Re: South Cambridgeshire District Council's response to the letter regarding Land to rear of The Lanes, Over (NH/12-131) from Ms Monnier

Since the Local Plan hearing on Local Green Space (Matter SC/4) on 18 January 2017 a letter has been submitted to the Examination regarding one of the sites that was discussed – Land to the rear of The Lanes, Over (NH/12-131). This letter was accepted by the Inspectors, and has been added to the Matter SC4 Examination Statements (SC4C-24059: M Monnier). The Council would like to respond to the new issues that have been raised in the letter sent by Marianne Monnier, who is one of the owners of the land proposed as Local Green Space (LGS).

The comments made in the letter of 18 January 2017 are, it seems, directed principally to the process adopted by Over Parish Council. As such, the letter is largely a matter for that Parish Council rather than for the District Council.

More generally, in respect of the plan making process, the District Council considers that it is for each Parish Council (PC) to decide how to respond to opportunities presented by plan making and in particular the opportunity to suggest, or comment upon, potential LGS within their Parish. All sites suggested as LGS, whether suggested by parish councils or otherwise, were fully and thoroughly tested by the District Council to establish whether they met the criteria from the National Planning Policy Framework for consideration as LGS. This process is set out in Appendix 5 of the Final Draft Sustainability Appraisal that was submitted with the Local Plan in March 2014(RD/Sub/SC/060). That a parish council might have suggested a site as LGS (adopting whatever procedure it considers appropriate) in no way reduced the thoroughness of the assessment of the site which is carried out thereafter by the District Council before the site is taken forward (or otherwise) as LGS. Site NH/12-131 has a long history of protection in South

Cambridgeshire Development Plans, due to its contribution to village amenity; it has been subject to PVAA designation since the Local Plan adopted in 2004.

As explained in the evidence base and at the examination session, all the sites proposed as LGS in the Proposed Submission Local Plan were consulted upon in the summer of 2013 and this provided an opportunity for representations to be made to any of these sites. Moreover, the Council carried out a number of exhibitions across the district highlighting the issues included in the Local Plan relevant to the surrounding area such as LGSs.

Subsequently a targeted consultation with owners of land proposed as LGS that was carried out following the submission of the Local Plan for examination is detailed in the report submitted to the Inspectors in July 2016 (RD/NE/240). The landowners of the site NH/12-131 responded to this consultation.

In preparing for the LGS hearing the Council offered the opportunity to PCs, where objections had been made to LGS, to provide further evidence of their value to the community. In the significant majority of cases Parishes took up this opportunity to provide further supporting information.

The procedure and position adopted by Over Parish Council in respect of the LGS within that Parish are, as we have submitted above, a matter for that Parish Council. The process adopted by the District Council in considering the soundness of proposed LGS allocations, summarised above, has been thorough and comprehensive; the owners of site NH/12-131 have had a full opportunity to participate in the plan making process. The procedures of Over Parish Council in respect of site NH/12-131, and generally, in no way compromises the evidence base in support of the allocation of that site as LGS or the submitted Local Plan's LGS allocations in general.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHunt', followed by a comma.

Caroline Hunt
Planning Policy Manager