

Email from Cllr Mackey to Programme Officer for Attention of Inspector

For the attention of Mr. Clews.

Dear Sir,

Based on the overwhelming response by the residents of Sutton Coldfield who remain constant in their objection to the policies GA5 and GA6, we call upon the Inspector, Mr Clews, to hold a further examination session, on a limited basis, on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

This is due not only to the sensitivity of policies GA5 and GA6 but the fact that upon reviewing the consultation process what is very clear, is that the focus of the consultation has been directed towards the Main Modifications (MM) with little emphasis on the Sustainability Appraisal.

This is supported by the comments made at a Sutton Coldfield District Meeting, held on the 21st September, where a planning officer, stated very clearly that the Inspector is supporting the principles of policies GA5 and GA6. But did not go on to explain that the consultation is also on the Sustainability Appraisal. This has led to much press speculation and commentary that has unduly influenced the public to believe that the decision has already been made to release the land for development before their representations have been fairly heard on the SA.

Which, of course, the Inspector would be aware is a clear breach of the law as there is a legal requirement for the public to be consulted on the SA which, of course, was also subject to much change following the Inspectors Interim report January 2015.

We believe there are a number of important principles that should have been applied and made clear to the public by the BCC, during constation these being:

- That the MM's were put forward "without prejudice" to the Inspector's final conclusions on the Plan and that all representations made upon them will be taken into account by the Inspector.
- Greater clarity was needed by the BCC to explain that the consultation was about proposed MM's and the SA, and highlighted the importance of the SA to the decisions made within GA5 and GA6.

We have of course notified the City Council of our concern.

We believe it is in the interests of every party involved to hold a further examination session on the SA.

Your Sincerely,

Kind regards

Ewan Mackey
Councillor for Sutton Trinity Ward