

ID 10

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SHROPSHIRE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION Stage 1 Hearing Statement

In my Representation Form dated 17/02/21 i outlined points that i considered relevant to the questions of Legally Compliant, Sound, and Compliant with the Duty to Co-Operate, which was summarised in the document Schedule 2 page 537 part B ref. B001.

In the document Schedule1 Page 31 Policy S10.2 the Shropshire Council Response talks about anything but the questions raised above.

My main comment as to the question of legality and soundness revolved around my point that few if any residents in Burford were aware of the general proposal to build houses mainly on the flood plain of the River Teme, in a location what was devoid of any Public Services and which could only be reached across a narrow bridge connecting Burford with Tenbury Wells. In most cases all Services were overstretched in Tenbury Wells at the then current date, and still are.

It is my opinion, and that of residents, that no news of the Councils proposals were circulated unless one happened to have a computer and be connected to the Councils Planning Application Department. To date i am aware that i am the only person in Burford that was in that position and able to make a comment. It is not up to me to dictate how the Council communicates with it's residents, but i consider that it was / is inadequate, and therefore the Local Plan is not legally compliant.

The Duty to Co-Operate is also insecure in relation to my comments above but from the fact that there has not been any consultation with representatives of the adjacent

County, Worcestershire, upon whom Burford depends on to provide all the Services necessary to exist.

It should be remembered that Burford and Tenbury Wells are classified as a Neighbourhood Area and as such there must be Consultation between the two Councils.

Now the existing Neighbourhood plan was being updated starting in 2016 but little advancement has been made, however the Chairman of the group has resigned and i understand that work is to commence between Burford Parish Council and Tenbury Town Council the results of which could well not be in line with the Shropshire Local Plan.

There are references in the Shropshire Response S10.2 mentioned above, but in spite of comments to the contrary i have an e mail from a local Worcester Councillor confirming that no detailed discussions have been held between the two Counties. It follows therefore that the requirement to Co- operate has not been met.

A letter from South Worcestershire Councils (A0656) to the Planning Policy and Strategy Team at Shire Hall Shrewsbury on the 19th February 2021 sets out the situation between Burford and Tenbury Wells succinctly The last paragraph of which says' We look forward to continuing constructive dialogue as our respective Local Plans progress including discussions relating to the Duty to Cooperate Statements of Common Ground'. However, i have an E Mail dated April 2021 where the local Councillor states that Shropshire have not communicated with Malvern Hills District Council regarding the developments proposed in the Shropshire Local Plan for Burford and he is very concerned. I am not aware that the situation has improved

It follows therefore that it is my consideration that the Requirement to Co-Operate has not been met.