

Appendix G- Weight Given to Community and Local Representation Issues

- A. Extract of Minutes from GNDP Board Meeting 30/09/2020
Written response to questions from Abby Gretton of Clayland Architects

Question 2.

How tied are the Board to the original assessment of Preferred Sites, and will the GNLP make reassessments based on the new information provided?

Response: A purpose of consulting on the draft plan was to get feedback on evidence related to sites. All pre-existing and new evidence submitted through the consultation is being carefully considered in deciding on the sites to be included in the Regulation 19 version of the plan - which is the plan we will submit for examination. Where strong evidence is received to include or exclude sites in the GNLP this will be considered.

Question 3.

What weight will be given to local and parish preference for sites?

Response: Significant weight is always given to local and parish preferences for sites, but it is not the sole consideration. Weight is also given to the evidence provided about sites. Furthermore, the local plan has to be prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework set by Government.

- B. Extracts from NPPF

Referring to local plans and plan making

Para 15a platform for local people to shape their surrounding

Para 16 c) be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees

Referring to Non-strategic policies

Para 29 Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area.

Para 30 Once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area, where they are in conflict

Footnote 16 Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area.

Conclusions

Whilst it is acknowledged that no Neighbourhood Plan has yet been commenced for Hingham, this does not alter the intent of NPPF that local views should have the ability to strongly influence the non-strategic local policies – indeed where there is a neighbourhood plan in place it is effectively implying in para 30 that non-strategic policies and local allocations should be delegated to the neighbourhood plan. It is submitted that even if a neighbourhood plan has not been prepared, where there is strong, consistent and united local opinion, the weight that should be given to this local view is significant. This is acknowledged by GNLP in their response to Question 3 above, but their response and the facts, which are that they have throughout ignored the views of the local community and Hingham Town Council who have loudly and consistently opposed development at Norwich Road (GNLP0520), are not consistent.