

Matters and Issues

Representation from the Magna Park is Big Enough campaign

6. Spatial strategy and countryside protection

6.5 Are the range of policies GD3 to GD7 governing rural development and the protection of the landscape and the countryside sound (having regard to any modifications the Council propose to make to the policy as indicated in IC3 in their response to IC2 Qs 12, 13 and 14)

MPisBE's response

The Inspector's question 22 asks:

Can the Council direct me to an analysis of the impacts on the countryside of this policy, having regard also to the Council's proposed modification to Policy GD3 which would allow such development in the countryside?

During the consultation process the developer and a resident pointed out that GD3 was inconsistent with BE2. The resident proposed an amendment to BE2 whilst the developer proposed a change to GD3.

The Council accepted an officer proposal to amend GD3 by adding a new criterion to GD3.1 "the delivery of strategic distribution development in accordance with Policy BE2.2" thus paving the way for large development in the countryside. This makes GD3 much weaker and inconsistent across the district. It also means that the Local Plan itself is inconsistent across the various policies.