

To Leire Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner 23 Sept 21

Subject: FW: FAO Chair Leire Parish Council

Dear Matthew Bills,

You will have received a “blind copy” of the following email from us yesterday. We would be obliged if this could be shared with the Independent Examiner please.

Thank you,

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From:

Sent: 21 September 2021 15:54

To: Leire Clerk

Subject: FAO Chair Leire Parish Council

FAO Chairman Leire Parish Council.

The Parish Council's (PC's) response to our request for copies of the recordings of the July 2021 and August 2021 PC meetings comes as no surprise since it simply perpetuates the theme adopted by the council in almost every response to our requests for information. From first publication of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) our requests for information have met obstruction, delay and lack of transparency (confirmed in your email of 21st October 2020 - attached)

In addition, there was repeated failure to publish our submissions to the Consultation Statement at Regulation 14 stage until after the NP had been submitted in full to Harborough DC: our submission was only added to the Consultation Statement the *second* time HDC instructed the PC to do this and progress of the NP had been suspended: our submission was, therefore, completely excluded from the NP process at Regulation 14 stage.

For six months the PC repeatedly ignored our question “When did the Open Web Events take place” until finally admitting at the January 2021 PC meeting that they “had not taken place”, despite which the NP was submitted to HDC containing the statement that they had.

For eight months the PC repeatedly ignored requests for copies of the “written correspondence” shared with the community (page 14 Draft NP dated May 2020) until finally stating that the “Executive summary” (dated *October 2020*) was “the written correspondence referred to”.

As the draft minutes for the July PC meeting are in dispute it seems contrary to common sense to withhold the recording of the meeting if it supports the actions of the PC. We had been going to ask the PC to carry out an internal review into their decision to withhold the recording, but we see no point; we leave people to draw their own conclusions regarding the PC's decision.

The process of putting together the NP for Leire has been flawed and mistakes have been made. The Dunton Bassett NP highlights where the Leire NP is lacking: Dunton Bassett have minuted meetings that document discussions about the merits of different development sites; their process can be clearly followed.

To Leire Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner 23 Sept 21

The actions of Leire PC and NPAC left the residents affected by this development completely unaware of any possibility of this site forming part of the NP, our absence from Open meetings supports this fact: but hardly any other residents attended those meetings either.

No resident is recorded as being present at any of the Open meetings apart from three in March 2019, one in July 2019 and four at the last meeting in *January 2020*, one of which was yourself.

We wrote to the PC in *March 2020* asking for the current position following the presentation by Andrew Granger for a proposed housing development between Airedale Close and St Peters Close, the PC told us "*We have no idea what is happening*" (see attached email)

The PC response to the presentation by Andrew Granger was clearly that the development would *not* be supported by them – and *no* member of the NP committee was at the presentation.

We had intended asking you to take this letter as a formal complaint regarding the actions of the Clerk to Leire PC:

1 – Not recording in the Draft Minutes of the July 2021 meeting of Leire Parish Council, a vote by Chair and seconded by Councillor aa to object to the planning application 21/01248/OUT and that Councillor bb abstained.

2 – Not carrying out an instruction, issued by Chair at the July 2021 meeting of the Leire Parish Council, (confirmed by the Clerk at the August 2021 PC meeting) to write to the Independent Examiner of the Leire Neighbourhood Plan to inform him that the Council felt they had been badly advised with regard to both the selection and inclusion of the proposed development site in the NP, and not recording that instruction in the Draft Minutes of that meeting.

But we aren't, as we would have no expectation of our complaint being dealt with fairly.

Until Parish Councils are properly regulated at District or County level and the public given a right of redress the Nolan principles of openness, accountability, honesty and transparency will remain - just principles; knowledge that developers will continue to exploit.

Without proper accountability the credibility of any group will always be called into question, especially when that group is given power over others.

Resident

Attachments

From: Leire Clerk

Date: 6 March 2020 at 14:18:52 GMT

To: resident

Subject: RE: Planning application

Dear,

I spoke with resident aa and resident bb last evening, I have no idea who put information through your doors.

The Parish Council have received no information from Harborough District Council for a planning application so at the moment we have no idea as to what is happening.

To Leire Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner 23 Sept 21

Our next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 17th March 2020 if you wish to come and have a word about this.

Kind regards

-----Original Message-----

From: resident

Sent: Thursday, 5 March, 2020 10:50pm

To: Leire Clerk

Subject: Planning application

Dear

Can you please let me know the current position on the proposed housing development in the field between Airedale Close and St Peters Close.

There was a presentation by the architect to the Parish Council a few months ago, but we are not aware of the current position.

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards

Resident Leire

From: Leire Clerk

Date: 21 October 2020 at 10:24:36 BST

To: resident

Cc:

Subject: NP

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. I am sorry that you have not received the information you asked for; there does seem to be some lack of transparency which we have taken up with the NP Advisory Committee as they are working on behalf of the Parish Council. The PC has yet to see, or consider, the consultation documents. I also propose visiting the suggested sites with the other councillors and to check any proposed amendments. It has been a difficult process as it seems difficult to get Your Locale (employed to draw up the plan) to attend any PC meetings. The plan still needs to be approved by the PC and be voted on by parishioners before it can be adopted by Harborough District Council.

Kind regards