

Clifton Hampden Neighbourhood Development Order

Examiner's Second Update

Context

This Note consolidates my earlier update of 30 September 2024.

Background

In September the Parish Council had highlighted the uncertainty which exists about its views on the Order, and the way in which it was intending to work with the other relevant parties. In all the circumstances, I was not satisfied at that time that there was sufficient clarity to allow a meaningful debate on the Order to take place at the hearing scheduled for 15 October 2024. On this basis, I asked the District Council to cancel the hearing. I also suspended the overall examination of the Order.

I then invited the Parish Council to have further discussions with the other parties involved in the Order, and to advise on whether it wished the Order to be examined as submitted, or whether it wished to make revisions and/or updates to the Order.

The Information Received

I subsequently received detailed comments from both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Development Order's Steering Group. They are available on the District Council's website. I have considered the comments very carefully. They highlight the significant differences which exist between the two parties rather than provide any clarity about the agreed contents of the Order or the way forward.

The Current Situation

In summary, the position has not changed in the last few weeks. I continue to conclude that there is insufficient clarity to underpin a meaningful debate on the Order, and to allow me to assess its proposals against each of the basic conditions. Moreover, it is my role to examine the Order against the basic conditions. It is not my role to secure agreement between the Parish Council, the Order's Steering Group, and the affected landowners and organisations.

The Next Steps

In all the circumstances, I invite the Parish Council to withdraw the Order. I would be grateful for its response by 27 November 2024.

Should the Parish Council not wish to withdraw the Order, I will prepare a report on its proposals for the District Council and without a hearing.

Andrew Ashcroft

Independent Examiner

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6 November 2024