

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

www.nortonstphilipparishcouncil.co.uk

Chair Ian Hasell, 7 Monmouth Paddock, Norton St Philip, Somerset, BA2 7LA, ianhasell@john-lewis.com

Clerk Nicola Duke, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN, nortonstphilippc@aol.co.uk

Ros Wyke, Leader Mendip District Council
Stuart Brown, Chief Executive Mendip District Council
All members of MDC Cabinet
Mendip District Council
Cannards Grave Road
Shepton Mallet
Somerset
BA4 5BT

By email

27th September 2021

Dear Ros, Stuart and Mendip Cabinet members,

Inspector's Report (IR) on Mendip District Council's Local Plan Part 2 (MDC LPP2)

I am writing concerning the Inspector's Report (IR) on Mendip District Council's Local Plan Part 2 (MDC LPP2). This is further to a letter and appended Note to Tracy Aarons and Andre Sestini (of 20 September 2021) in which I highlighted Norton St Philip Parish Council's (PC) concerns about some of the content of the IR and the conclusions the Inspector has drawn from the information and evidence presented at the second round of Examination Hearings. In the letter we requested that our concerns and the Note be circulated to Cabinet Members ahead of the Cabinet Meeting of 4th October, at which the Inspector's Report is to be Item 6 on the Agenda.

The Officer's Report on Item 6 refers to the "Letter from Norton St Phillip Parish Council – dated 20th September 2021" but makes no reference to the associated Note. Furthermore, the papers on the meeting website do not contain copies of the IR, the letter from the PC or the associated Note. They are simply referred to as "Background Documents". I am of the opinion that, without these documents, the Cabinet will not be able to make an informed decision as to whether to accept the recommendations in the Officer's paper specifically to,

- accept the conclusions and the recommended Main Modifications of the independent Inspector appointed to examine the Mendip Local Plan Part II;
- endorse and recommend to Council that Mendip Local Plan Part II incorporating the Main Modifications is adopted;

In order to ensure all Cabinet members have had sight of them I have taken the liberty of attaching the PC's letter and associated Note to this email.

The PC view is that there are both material omissions and errors in the IR and that the Officer's report is unsound as it does not address the issues raised in our Note. On Wednesday 22 September, Barbi Lund, District Councillor for Rode and Norton St Philip wrote to Andre Sestini and Tracy Aarons (on behalf of the PC) to request the postponement of the IR from 4 October Cabinet meeting until 1 November Cabinet. This request was forwarded to Ros and Julie Reader-Sullivan on the afternoon of 24 September who will have received it this morning. The request was made on the following grounds:

- it would allow the PC to discuss this at its next Parish Council meeting on 13 October;
- it would allow the PC to obtain legal advice.

I am reiterating that request. A deferment will also allow members of Cabinet to fully appraise themselves of the issues raised by the PC.

I also wish to inform the Chief Executive of the Council and all members of the Cabinet that the PC has taken preliminary legal advice with a view to seeking a Judicial Review should the Council choose to adopt Mendip Local Plan Part II.

I look forward to receiving your decision as to whether Item 6 can be deferred to the November Cabinet meeting.

Yours sincerely



Pp

Ian Hasell
Chairman
For and on behalf of
Norton St. Philip Parish Council

Cc: Julie Reader-Sullivan, David Clark, Andre Sestini