

Sean Roberts

From: Programme Officer
Subject: FW: Letter sent to Planning Inspectorate dated 21.11.13

Dear Sean

Thank you for the message.

Please find set out below the Council's response to the matters raised in the letter from Colwich Parish Council.

- Stafford Borough Council have provided Parish Councils, including Colwich Parish, with notifications at each stage of the plan-making process as set out in the Legal Compliance Checklist (Examination Document B5)
- The process for selecting the Key Service Villages, including Great Haywood and Little Haywood & Colwich, is set out in the Background Statement (K1) and Topic Paper D including the relationship with Spatial Principle 3 – Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Principle 4 – Housing Growth. Part of the new Local Plan's development strategy is to provide local communities with the opportunity to progress Neighbourhood Plans identifying the appropriate scale of new housing development for their particular areas without prescribing specific allocations to particular Key Service Villages.
- The Borough Council will continue to engage with Parish Councils in terms of delivering new development at the Key Service Villages, in the context of the new Local Plan's development strategy and evidence from the Neighbourhood Planning process, including current services and facilities.
- At the current time there is pressure in rural areas from speculative planning applications for housing due to a lack of 5 year supply. However this situation will be resolved when the new Local Plan is adopted and future sites at Stafford and Stone are confirmed as Strategic Development Locations.
- The Borough Council agrees that it is important to have an on-going dialogue and pro-active engagement with Parish Councils to establish the most robust context for Neighbourhood Plans and / or the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.
- The new Plan for Stafford Borough provides a strategic approach and therefore the Borough Council considers that the most appropriate process for apportioning new housing provision to individual Key Service Villages is through Neighbourhood Plans and / or the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Kind regards

Alex