

LONGDON NERIGHBOURHOOD PLAN RESPONSE TO EXAMINERS QUESTIONS

Good Afternoon John

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your questions on the draft Plan I have also copied my response in to Patrick, posted the questions and my response on the website- I'll respond as per your numbered paragraphs.

Para 4 Community / recreational facilities.

Setting aside the Churches, the local pubs, the shop in Longdon and the schools, the only community/ recreational facilities in the Parish are the Village Hall, the Memorial Hall and field to the rear, the WI hall and the cricket club. It was not felt necessary to specify the actual properties as they were in use at the time. However, if by naming them the policy is strengthened, we would support the addition.

Para 5 Culs de Sac.

We felt it important to provide explanatory text to the policies to illustrate our desire to have a less suburban build form to any future development, albeit we acknowledge that some culs de sac were constructed in the 1960's/ '80's.

As the plan clearly shows, we are not opposed to new building; it is the scale and 'sameness' of the late '60's predominantly cul de sac development, that we are seeking to resist with this Neighbourhood Plan. By trying to avoid perpetuating this design style, it is hoped to enhance the appearance of the village and improve its permeability and community integration, which culs de sac inhibit. Parishioners expressed this view and is therefore included in our evidence appendices both via the public meetings and the input cards. Furthermore, there are a number of long gardens, especially in Upper Longdon which could be attractive to those seeking backland culs de sac development. Linear infill (where appropriate and including courtyard design) would start to redress the balance and help restore the more traditional pattern of development for the area.

Para 6 Green Belt development.

Whilst supportive of sympathetic development, the Plan Working Group did scenario test our policies on sites (regardless of location), upon which we thought owners / developers might have development aspirations in the future; we also considered creating village boundaries for Longdon Green and Gentshew. However, we felt that the general Green Belt policies were adequate, provided the guidance within the Plan was respected. The policies acknowledge that the onerous national (and local) planning considerations for development in the Green Belt will be paramount, but we felt it important to reiterate that guidance, so that prospective planning applicants help ensure that their development respects the immediate setting, the openness of the countryside, and our aspirations for the rural character of the Longdons.

Para 7 Housing need.

The Housing Needs Assessment undertaken by the District Council for the Local Plan, highlighted the need for smaller types of accommodation, suitable for starter families and the elderly; issues identified in the local consultation. Policy 6 is intended to encourage smaller sized properties appropriate for such groups, without being explicitly for them. We are happy to remove the words for local people if that avoids confusion.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the assistance given to us by the Planning Dept of LDC in the preparation of this Plan. However, since there is no opportunity for us to comment on any of the remarks made during this part of the process, we felt it important to draw to your attention the changes we made to the Plan after the Reg 14 consultation. These are contained in the Consultation Schedule (App 1, p 261-271). We felt that we had responded well to the suggestions, but where we diverged, we provided honest justification, to reflect the views of the Parish.

Kind regard
Gina Duckett
Chair Longdon Parish Council