

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE OTTERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Jill Kingaby BSc (Econ) MSc MRTPI

Francesca Mills  
Clerk to Otterton Parish Council

Claire Rodway  
East Devon Council

Examination Ref: 02/JK/ONP

12 March 2020

Dear Ms Mills and Ms Rodway

### OTTERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Following the submission of the Otterton Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) for examination and my procedural letter of 6 March 2020, I have now had the opportunity to read all the documents in further detail (prior to my site visit) and have some questions for Otterton Parish Council.

I have read the responses from interested persons and parties to the Regulation 16 consultation exercise (submitted between 3 December 2019 and 22 January 2020). These responses propose a number of modifications to the submitted Plan. Before reaching a decision as to whether or not these proposed modifications should be recommended in order to meet the Basic Conditions, it would be helpful to learn the views of the Parish Council. Please would you reply to these questions as soon as possible, and ideally within **two weeks** of receiving this letter.

1. East Devon District Council's (EDDC) Landscape Architect and Green Infrastructure Officer put forward proposed wording changes to Policies ON5, ON7 and the map of Ladram Bay Holiday Park. Is there any reason why these modifications should not be made?
2. The Environment Agency observed that there is no specific policy to prevent the exacerbation of flooding/flood risk in Otterton. I note that the East Devon Local Plan 2013-31 includes Strategy 5 – Environment and Policy EN21 – River and Coastal Flooding, which should prevent any development that would cause or enhance flood risk in Otterton. It is not necessary for the Neighbourhood Plan to repeat the policy within the Local Plan, but should a cross-reference to Policy EN21 be added to section 4.4 or elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan? Please propose some additional text if so.
3. The Economic Development Manager of EDDC raised a number of questions relating to the coverage of Economy, Business and Employment. Firstly, having regard to the Future Vision and objectives, is the Plan sufficiently ambitious, and looking to encourage the expansion of sectors which will pay more than jobs in agriculture and tourism? Will the needs of young people for local employment be met if the 'Stay the same' vision is pursued? The desire for stronger broadband and mobile data connection could be linked to development of the creative and knowledge-based sectors, it is suggested. The NPPF supports the construction of a strong, competitive economy. Should the approach of the Neighbourhood Plan be more positive, and if so, how exactly should the Plan be modified?

4. The Economic Development Manager and EDDC proposed modifications to Policies ONP6 Encouraging Small-scale Economic Development and ONP7 Ladram Bay Holiday Park Development, to make them less restrictive of any new development, and to clarify the criteria to be met by development proposals. It would be helpful to understand the Parish Council's view of the suggested modifications.

Responses to these questions should enable me to progress the Examination, and report back to the Parish Council and East Devon District Council promptly.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this letter is placed on the Parish Council and local authority's website.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

*Jill Kingaby*

Examiner