

Report of the
Chair to the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Steering Committee
Wednesday 08 04 2020

Dear All

I sent you a Chair's report on Friday, here is the latest . Yesterday (Monday 6th April) I received a phone call from Fran Belcher regarding our NP , she informed me that the examiner has decided the following.

He is not satisfied that the way in which we carried out reg 14 in that it in its entirety it fails to meet the basic conditions, the sequence of events do not follow the regulations. The SEA should be completed before the NP ,to enable the NP to be informed by the findings in the SEA before it is submitted in its Draft form for consultation at reg 14.

We took a different view at the time and agreed not to repeat reg 14 but to hold a three week consultation on the SEA at the same time allowing those consulted to look at the draft copies of NP .

We were aware that there was a risk of the examiner disagreeing with our decision and the possible consequences.

So the position we find ourselves in is this we have two options

- We withdraw the Plan with the examiners consent, and conduct reg 14 and follow the process through from there. When it gets to examination again we would have a different examiner.

Or

- We continue with the examination , the examiner will fail it on not meeting a basic condition. . The Borough council would not the put it though for referendum.

That is a very simplistic explanation but in essence that's the choice we face, I spoke to Gary and have passed over the information.

I will contact Fran tomorrow and get further details.

What we need to do now is come to a decision, there is going to be a PC meeting to discuss the way forward before the end of the month and we need to have a meeting before that.

On line Zoom meetings are the way to do this. I would like to set up an online meeting on the 15th 16th or 17th of April to discuss this. What do we think?

The good news is that the examiner has said that the Plan itself along with the supporting documents is very strong, for this and the work we have put in has got to make it worth while carrying on.

Please get back to me with your thoughts as soon as possible please.

Stay safe and kind regards Heather Davison

Chair Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.