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E-Mail Enquiry

Class: LDP Change Class

To: ldp@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

CC:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 15/09/2014 18:47:44

Subject: [ACE/604616] LDP Main Issues Report, Addendum, response from Inverurie Community Council

Status: New Enquiry Change Status

Owner: No Owner Assigned Change Owner
(Individual dealing with the Enquiry.)

Age: 0

(in work days)

Attachments: Main_Issues_Report_addendum_comments_Aug_2014_2.doc

Comments: Edit Comment

Enquiry Text

Hi,

Please find attached Inverurie Community Council's response to the LDP Main Issues Report, Addendum.



- Main_Issues_Report_addendum_comments_Aug_2014_2.doc

History

- 15/09/2014 18:47 Enquiry (Current Document)
- 15/09/2014 19:04 Automatic Reply
- 16/09/2014 07:45 Reply with History (Draft)

SUBMISSION No.	23
ISSUES FILED	
SUPPORTING DOCS	

Inverurie Community Council



Response to Main Issues Report - Addendum – September 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to comment further on the MIR. Further to our comments given in January of this year to the proposals for the LDP, we feel it is necessary to comment beyond simply answering your questions, as we did earlier in the year.

8 It is unclear to us how the previous comments from Inverurie Community Council (ICC) have been considered and incorporated into the draft Local plan. We are concerned, in case they were not received, that we have received no response to the queries and comments made as part of our earlier response.

We can only therefore reiterate our overall concern that the planning process seems unable to absorb our prime concern that the future of the town does not appear to be planned but is apparently at the whim of developers submitting housing applications. If we have missed issues and aspects concerning significant commercial, retail, industrial, recreational, educational, sports or environmental developmental potential, we would be grateful for a steer to the proposals envisaged and the mechanisms to ensure delivery. We want to see clear cohesion and coherence in the long term development of our town.

Inverurie Community Council, is like many, overly represented by older citizens, whose longer experience of the town notices the changes more starkly than those with shorter contacts in the town. Most members notice with sadness the change over the past 30 years from vibrant market town to an increasingly functional commuter town. Sadly the infrastructure required to have a well functioning commuting town has not been developed and we are seeing vastly increasing traffic and transport difficulties developing in concert with the numerous housing sites being added to Inverurie's periphery. We assume no-one actually wants this. The function of the planning process, we believe, is to ameliorate the problems and assist in the management of the process for the benefit of existing and incoming residents and businesses alike. Planning is not just about adding more houses. We are concerned as a Community Council that councillors are struggling to ensure cohesion in this process and the need for a clear over-arching vision which will guide the town's development is now clear and urgent. We wish our town to remain a viable centre for the community already here and to be a vibrant and welcoming society for new residents.

To summarise, we would ask you to open a dialogue with us on where we all think our town is going in the next 30 years and how this can be managed for the benefit of the people, economy and environment of Inverurie.

Q1 Wind Energy

We don't see this situation as having an easy solution. It would clearly be a waste of time & money to develop spatial frameworks for all settlements, where many

may never receive a turbine application. Equally, it would be inappropriate to allow developments on an ad hoc basis.

However, from reading your notes, it appears to us at least there is another possible approach, viz. for you to detail the "clarified policy criteria" in public documents and to have these fairly and rigorously applied to any turbine(s) application.

Q2 Heat Networks

There seems to be much vague reference to both renewable and CHP networks in the report. Para 3.3 is typical where "support" is recommended to be given. There is no firm statement about what that means and what must be delivered. If these statements are simply a wish and there is no mechanism for mandatory inclusion in any planning permission why are they included in the planning framework at all? If "support" is defined somewhere, we should like to see the definition.

2 ICC support the investigation into any CHP, with or without a renewable energy source, for any local developments and would be pleased to hear of both the criteria to be used and how Aberdeenshire Council and the local planning process proposes to support such innovations.

We would like to see more encouraging incentives (beyond those of central government) to promote the use of locally sourced renewables which could have a positive impact on the local economy. This would also benefit from the inflow of ROCs, FITs commercial RHI and so on. Simply putting on blank tails to new buildings to allow future connections would be a poor under-achievement.

Q3 Land Supply

3 We have no specific comments on the proposals as none of the changed settlement plans is for Inverurie.

However, we do wish to make our worries and concerns known with regards to an inevitable increase in 'through traffic' in Inverurie when any significant housing development is occupied in Oldmeldrum.

3/8 We are aware that Burghmuir Drive was constructed as a distributor route for the town's hinterland but the current level of traffic was never considered as likely to occur at that time. The increase in traffic projected for Burghmuir will become not only intolerable, but dangerous for the local residents, and we urge consideration being given to the development and completion of an alternative route for (particularly commuter) traffic from beyond Inverurie.

Though we would stop short of urging a review of Inverurie's eastern bypass apparent decision, the current development of the WPR clearly would allow for redirection of traffic from the north east of Oldmeldrum to allow it to avoid Inverurie.