

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE STANNINGTON PARISH**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2017-2032**

EXAMINER: Jonathan G King BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

Mr D Hall  
Clerk to Stannington Parish Council

John Boardman  
Northumberland County Council

Examination Ref: 01/JGK/SNP

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12 March 2018

Dear Mr Hall and Mr Boardman

**STANNINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION**

Following the submission of the Stannington Parish Neighbourhood Plan for examination, I would like to clarify a number of initial procedural matters.

1. Examination Documentation

I can confirm that I am satisfied that I have received a complete submission of the draft Plan and accompanying documentation, including the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Regulation 16 representations, to enable me to undertake the examination.

Subject to my detailed assessment of the draft plan, I have not at this initial stage identified any very significant and obvious flaws in the Plan that might lead me to advise that the examination should not proceed.

2. Site Visit

My site visit has been delayed by the recent poor weather, but I can now inform you that I intend visiting the neighbourhood plan area w/c 12 March 2018. This will assist me in the assessment of the draft Plan, including the issues identified in the representations.

The site visit will be undertaken unaccompanied. It is very important that I am not approached to discuss any aspects of the Plan or the neighbourhood area, as this may be perceived to prejudice my independence and risk compromising the fairness of the examination process.

### 3. Written Representations

At this stage, I consider the examination can be conducted solely by the written representations procedure, without the need for a hearing. However, I will reserve the option to hold a hearing should a matter come to light where I consider that one is necessary to ensure the adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

### 4. Further Clarification

At present, I am content that I am able to make an assessment of compliance with the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements, based on the draft Plan and evidence submitted (including the Regulation 16 representations).

### 5. Examination Timetable

As you will be aware, the usual intention is to examine the Plan, including conduct of the site visit, with a view to providing a draft report for 'fact checking' within 4-6 weeks of submission of the draft Plan. In this case, this may be slightly prolonged owing to the delay in carrying out the site visit. The IPE office team will provide an indication of the expected date for receipt of my draft report shortly, but please be assured that I will seek to mitigate any further delay as far as is practicable.

In the interests of transparency, could I ask you to ensure a copy of this letter is placed on both the local authority and parish council websites.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

*Jonathan G King*

Examiner