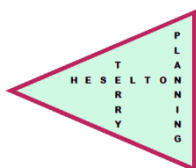


Independent Examination of the Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan

Examination Update

Terry Raymond Heselton BA (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI

Independent Examiner



Terry Heselton Planning

8 April 2020

I have now completed my initial assessment of the submission documents and Regulation 16 representations. The purpose of this note is to provide an update as to how the examination will proceed. A number of clarification requests and questions arising from my initial review, for the attention of Northumberland County Council and Lesbury Parish Council, are set out in a separate note

1.0 Responses to the Regulation 16 Publicity

- 1.1 I have received responses to the Regulation 16 Publicity (via Northumberland County Council) from eight local residents and from or on behalf of seven local or national organisations. All of the responses were submitted within the 6 week publicity period and will be taken into account as part of the examination.
- 1.2 Following the invitation made in my Examination Procedure Note I have also received comments on the individual responses from Lesbury Parish Council.
- 1.3 In order to ensure openness and transparency the Regulation 16 representations and the Parish Council's comments may be viewed on the County Council's website.
- 1.4 For clarification I am not inviting comments on the representations or the Parish Council comments, and this is not a further opportunity to comment on the Plan.

2.0 Need for a Hearing

- 2.1 From my initial assessment of the submitted documentation and Regulation 16 Representations I am satisfied that the examination can proceed without the need for a hearing. However I will keep this under review as the examination progresses and advise you further should the need arise.

3.0 Site Visits

- 3.1 In view of the current travel and social distancing restrictions, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, undertaking an inspection or tour of the area would not be appropriate at present.
- 3.2 I have considered whether it is possible to undertake the examination without visiting the area, for example by relying on visual evidence available in the submission documents and photographic evidence submitted by objectors, or by viewing individual sites and locations using Google Earth and Street View. However this may not be practicable in a small number of instances where a site visit may be necessary in order to fully appreciate the nature of specific objections to defined settlement boundaries. The need to access garden curtilages will almost certainly require me to undertake accompanied site visits in these cases.
- 3.3 As a consequence of this please be aware I may therefore be unable to complete the examination until the current Coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Terry Heselton

Independent Examiner

8 April 2020