

Drinkstone Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan Councillor's Report to the Special Meeting 31st March 2023

Agenda Item;

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan – Proposed Modifications Consultation

1. Report

The Planning Inspectors appointed to examine the Draft Joint Local Plan have previously expressed significant concern about the robustness of housing site selection and the soundness of the sites allocated in the Plan and its related Spatial Strategy.

They have noted that the vast majority of the Plan's housing requirements figure (detailed Policy SP01) is already provided for by existing development completions, sites under construction, sites with full or outline planning permission, sites with resolution to grant planning permission subject to Section 106 Agreements, allocations in made Neighbourhood Plans, and a reasonable allowance for windfall dwellings.

In order to enable The Plan to be found sound the Inspectors propose deleting the housing site allocations from The Plan and retaining the settlement boundaries shown on the current policies map (ie not those shown on the submission policies map submitted with the Plan for examination). Whilst settlement boundaries will require review and updating in due course, the Inspectors are satisfied that for the short to medium term they will enable the Districts' development needs to be met whilst recognising the intrinsic character of the countryside in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

The current consultation runs until 3rd May. I have checked the Draft Online Policies Map that forms part of the consultations documents; neither the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan Settlement Boundaries or the Adopted Mid Suffolk Settlement boundaries for Drinkstone appear on the Online Policies Map. I believe this must be an error as the Settlement Boundaries for the neighbouring Parishes of Woolpit, Rattlesden and Felsham are shown. I do not consider there are any other matters for the Parish Council to comment on.

2. Proposal:

The Parish Council responds to the current consultation using the online portal pointing out the Settlement Boundaries for Drinkstone have been omitted from the Draft Online Policies Map, and request that both the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan and the Adopted Settlement boundaries are shown as a separate layers on the Interactive Map.

Peter Holborn

