

Mr J R
Staincross

27 JAN 2020

B.M.B.C
COUNCIL GOVERNANCE UNIT
TOWN HALL
BARNLEY

J R.

STAINCROSS

DEAR SIR - MADAM

PUBLIC QUESTION FOR COUNCIL MEETING 27 FEB 2020

Within the Dorton East Ward, there are plans to build hundreds of new homes, and its residents, are concerned about the problems this will bring to them, should direct management action, not be taken.

- (1) Why in this ward is there a need for more homes, and what benefit will they bring into the ward.
- (2) The environment will change, with increasing air pollution, more traffic congestion, and flooding. On these three issues, how will the problems be managed, to reduce, or eliminate the risk.
- (3) More homes, means more people, which will place additional pressures on the service providers for, education, medical care, and the three emergency services, police, fire, ambulance. What consultation has taken place with these service providers, have you their assurance they will be able to provide, a service, fit for purpose.
- (4) When did a council representative engage with residents on this subject, with ward meetings, for them to have their say.

Yours sincerely

J. R.

Response provided by Councillor Frost (Cabinet Support Member for Place (Regeneration and Culture))

1. National Government Planning Policy requires local authorities to assess housing need in their areas and demonstrate that they have an adequate supply of land on which homes can be delivered to meet that need. Barnsley's Local Plan seeks to deliver 21, 546 net new dwellings during the plan period of 2014- 2033. The Local Plan is supported by evidence setting out how the housing requirement was arrived at, and has been robustly tested through the Local Plan examination. Population projections are the starting point for assessing housing need. Planning officers will be happy to assist in providing further information on where this information can be found on the Council's website. The Local Plan apportions development across the borough, focussing development in the most sustainable locations of Urban Barnsley (which Darton falls within) and the Principal Towns. Benefits of development to an area are meeting housing needs, providing investment and improvements. For example contributions from a new housing development may provide new green space and/ or improve existing space for the benefit of the whole community.

2. Planning applications for major development need to be accompanied by a host of technical reports covering individual topics including an assessment of the effects on the highway network, flood risk assessments, ones on air quality and noise, ecology and tree surveys etc. These identify the impacts likely to occur as a result of specific proposals and inform any necessary mitigation measures. The Council has the ability to refuse planning applications where harmful effects are identified and cannot be mitigated.

3. The Council engaged with infrastructure providers at each stage of the Local Plan process. An Infrastructure Delivery Plan was prepared to support the Local Plan which summarises this engagement and sets out infrastructure requirements and how they are proposed to be delivered. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan can be found on the Council's website. Planning officers will be happy to assist in providing further information on where this information can be found. In addition the Council has adopted a range of planning policies that allows us to secure financial contributions from developers towards the provision of additional school places, new greenspace provision, sustainable travel and affordable housing. These are secured through legal agreements that are attached to specific planning permissions.

4. The Council carried out public consultation at each stage of the Local Plan process, which the Local Plan Inspector in her report describes as 'full and widespread'. Main methods of publicity and consultation have been website; press notice; press releases; social media; site notices and drop in sessions. Numerous drop in sessions were held where officers were available to provide help and answer questions. They were held in Barnsley Town Centre and the Principal Towns at various times during the week and some Saturdays. Where requested at each stage officers also attended Parish Council meetings and Area Forums/ Area Councils. Consultation was carried out in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and the Local Plan regulations. All consultation events are summarised on the Council's website. Again officers will be happy to assist in providing further detail. In addition individual planning applications are subject to their own statutory publicity requirements that allows for affected residents to submit representations concerning any grounds of concern that they wish to have considered prior to the decision being made (NB It should be noted that we can only take into account of considerations that are material to the process in planning law terms).