

SUBMISSION DRAFT GILSTON AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2020-2033

EXAMINATION

EXAMINER'S NOTE 1

1. I have determined that I must cause a hearing to be held as part of the Examination.
2. This is because, having regard to Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, paragraph 9(2) I consider that the consideration of oral representations is necessary to ensure adequate examination of the issues that arise.
3. By paragraph 9(4) the hearing must be "in public". Normally, a physical hearing takes place at a convenient location in the neighbourhood area. It is unlikely that, with COVID restrictions, such a hearing could take place for at least six months.
4. For many months, the Planning Inspectorate has been conducting "public" inquiries in a virtual format (using Microsoft Teams). With extensive publicity and notification, it has been considered that a virtual format can constitute a public event.
5. I seek the confirmation of EHDC and HEGNPG that it is agreed that it will be possible, by this means, to hold a "public hearing". This Note will be placed on the websites of those bodies, and I hope that any additional steps necessary to bring it to the attention of the local community will be taken. I will of course consider any representations from any interested person as to the adequacy of a virtual hearing.
6. On this point—solely the potential to hold a virtual hearing-- I invite representations **by Wednesday 21 October 2020.**
7. Assuming for the time being that I determine, in the light of representations, that a virtual hearing is possible, I hope that 14 days notice (from 21 October) will be adequate notification of the hearing.
8. I regret that I am (currently) insufficiently skilled to host a virtual meeting. I hope that the Council may already have experience of Teams or Zoom meetings which they could set up and host.
9. I will, shortly after 21 October, and assuming that a virtual hearing is to take place, issue a full Note as to the parties (over and above EHDC and HEGNPG) to whom I will offer the opportunity to make representations, the main topics I will wish to explore, an agenda and other items.
10. I will in any event, and shortly, be issuing a Note raising certain queries and other issues going to the substance of the NP.

Christopher Lockhart-Mummery QC

Examiner

15 October 2020