

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION: STAGE 2 HEARINGS

MATTER 15:

PROPOSED SITE ALLOCATIONS – LARGE VILLAGES

ON BEHALF OF: WITCHFORD PARISH COUNCIL (1059584)

Pegasus Group

Pegasus House | Querns Business Centre | Whitworth Road | Cirencester | Gloucestershire | GL7 1RT

T 01285 641717 | **F** 01285 642348 | **W** www.pegasuspg.co.uk

Birmingham | Bracknell | Bristol | Cambridge | Cirencester | East Midlands | Leeds | Liverpool | London | Manchester

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1. Introduction

1.1.1 This hearing statement has been prepared on behalf of Witchford Parish Council (WPC) to address the matters and issues raised in the Stage 2 Hearings Programme. Separate Hearing Statements are being submitted for Matters 7, 14 and 15.

1.2 Matter 15, Issue 1: Whether the proposed site allocations for the Large Villages of Bottisham, Burwell, Fordham, Haddenham, Isleham, Little Downham, Stretham, Sutton and Witchford are justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

1.2.1 This issue has a single question (61), which is divided into sub-questions. WPC is concerned with allocations WFD.H1-4 and sub-question a) which states:

1.2.2 a) What is the background to the site allocation? How was it identified and which options were considered?

1.2.3 WPC's representation on this matter was submitted in our letter dated 19th December 2017 along with response form (H) to the Regulation 19 consultation.

1.2.4 WPC is aware of objections to the Plan by developers wishing to allocate additional land for development in the village, particularly the site WFD.M1 which was removed from the Submission Plan following extensive consideration (as detailed in our original representation).

1.2.5 Since then, the Council has refused planning permission for another proposed development in the village, where the need for primary school education capacity was considered. The refused application for 31 dwellings at land south of Main Street (application reference 17/02217/OUM) reviewed the issues of education provision, and WPC understands that the County Council, as Education Authority, does not require additional land for a new primary school in Witchford, and the provision of such a facility should not therefore be seen as a reason to allocate additional development land.

1.2.6 We understand that the primary school currently takes pupils from outside its catchment area, and over time, the growth of the village will simply result in the school serving a more local catchment. If additional land were to be required for the expansion of the existing primary school, then this is available to the south and east of the school site.

1.2.7 In answer to the question noted above, WPC's representations made on 19th December therefore continue to apply.