

Ashley Mooney

From: Cllr. Neil Stock, Leader of the Council [cllr.nstock@tendringdc.gov.uk]
Sent: 09 November 2015 09:48
To: Cllr A. Mooney
Cc: Cllr. Mark Stephenson; Cllr. Jeffrey Bray; Cllr. Peter Cawthron; Cllr. Richard Everett; Cllr. Joy Broderick
Subject: Re: Local Plan

Dear Ashley et al,

In respect of the motion that we put together at the last meeting of the Local Plan Committee, which received unanimous support, the committee resolved to ask officers to go back to the authors of the report "to explore the possibility of revising its conclusions with a view to setting lower housing growth figures for Tendring such that it was no greater than 479 dwellings per annum".

Whilst the outcome of that exercise - a very decisive "no we can't reduce the housing figure any further" is clearly not what any of us hoped for when we agreed the motion I don't think it helps our cause to shoot the messenger, so to speak.

The chap from PBA who addressed the committee at the specially-convened workshop was absolutely thorough and forensic-like in his dissection and explanation of the entire process. He left no stone unturned and I received much positive feedback from members who were impressed with his detailed knowledge and fearless approach to the issue, notwithstanding the ultimately disappointing conclusion.

We have done extremely well in reducing the housing number as much as we have already but it is quite clear from responses to the Issues and Options consultation from Chelmsford, Braintree and Colchester councils that any attempt by us to try to use the PBA report to justify an even lower figure will simply undermine the whole thing and since those three authorities are basically taking the extra housing that we have managed to lose any attempt by us to go for an even lower figure will actually have the opposite effect and we will be back up to 12,000 houses!

It is quite clear to me that there is a serious danger of us getting bogged down in an internal argument about housing numbers despite it being an area not in our control and as a consequence we will miss our deadlines and end up with a government imposed local plan for which our residents would never forgive us.

A point made very well by Mark Stephenson at a Tendring Lobby Group meeting that I spoke at recently was that we have yet to talk about the type of housing that gets built, or the style, density, eco-credentials, etc. What worries our residents far more than the housing numbers is what sort of housing are they going to get; propose a massive development of high-density social housing for ex-convicts or benefit dependent people pushed out of London and the reaction will be extremely negative - but suggest developments of architect-designed aspirational housing, with green open spaces and environmentally sustainable construction to attract business owners and wealthy families into the area and the reaction will be entirely different.

So in summary I am entirely happy that officers have fully carried out the instructions of the committee, albeit we find the result most disappointing, but we now must move the discussion on to areas that are in our control and where the decision making lies entirely with us.

Hope that is helpful.

Regards

Neil

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Cllr A. Mooney" <ashleymooney@sky.com>
Date: 09/11/2015 08:16 (GMT+00:00)
To: "Cllr. Neil Stock, Leader of the Council" <cllr.nstock@tendringdc.gov.uk>
Cc: "Cllr. Mark Stephenson" <cllr.mstephenson@tendringdc.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Jeffrey Bray" <cllr.jbray@tendringdc.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Peter Cawthron" <cllr.pcawthron@tendringdc.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Richard Everett" <cllr.reverett@tendringdc.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Joy Broderick" <cllr.jbroderick@tendringdc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Local Plan

Re-sent with correction to spelling in last para, which should start:- "This note is written with the support of:"

From: Ashley Mooney [mailto:ashleymooney@sky.com]
Sent: 08 November 2015 19:00
To: 'cllr.nstock@tendringdc.gov.uk'
Cc: 'Cllr. Mark Stephenson'; 'Cllr. Jeffrey Bray'; 'Cllr. Peter Cawthron'; 'Cllr. Richard Everett'; 'cllr.jbroderick@tendringdc.gov.uk'
Subject: FW: Local Plan
Importance: High

Dear Neil,

I have received a response to my email to the TDC head of planning, Cath Bicknell; from the new Planning Officer, Simon Meecham - Attached. Please would you let me know if you feel that this response is adequate?

I am sure that I do not need to point out to you that this refusal by the TDC Planning department to investigate the 597dpa number contained in the PBA OAHN study is not the response that I, and so many others, had hoped for. In what sense do Mr Meecham and Mrs Bicknell feel that their actions fulfill the requirement to "investigate" placed upon them by the motion at the last Local Plan Committee meeting?

I am not at all sure what the alternatives are, to a proper investigation on the PBA analysis. Given the massive opposition to this amongst the residents of Tendring, I cannot imagine that this is about to go away as an issue. It is beginning to look as though TDC officers are simply unaware of the raw anger this issue is causing.

I sincerely hope that you will take this chance to make the TDC Planning Department engage properly with the reasonable concerns of the residents of Tendring.

This note is written with the support of:

Cllr Mark Stephenson
Cllr Jeff Bray
Cllr Peter Cawthron
Cllr Richard Everitt
Cllr Joy Broderick

Yours sincerely, Ashley

Cllr John Ashley Mooney
m:- +44 7947 127595
e:- cllr.amooney@tendringdc.gov.uk<mailto:cllr.amooney@tendringdc.gov.uk>
Blog:- www.ashleymooney.uk<http://www.ashleymooney.uk>

From: Simon Meecham [mailto:smeecham@tendringdc.gov.uk]
Sent: 28 October 2015 18:31
To: Cllr. Ashley Mooney
Cc: Cllr. Neil Stock, Leader of the Council; Catherine Bicknell; Ian Davidson
Subject: RE: Local Plan

Dear Cllr Money,

Thank you for your correspondence on the OAN. I have been asked to reply and attach a note which I hope you will find helpful.

With best wishes,
Simon Meecham

From: Catherine Bicknell
Sent: 23 October 2015 10:21
To: Cllr. Ashley Mooney
Cc: 'Douglas Carswell'; Cllr. Mark Stephenson; Cllr J. Broderick; Cllr. Jeffrey Bray; Cllr. Alex Porter; Cllr. Peter Cawthron; Cllr. Richard Everett; chairman@trlg.org.uk<mailto:chairman@trlg.org.uk>; john.smith-daye@lambert-chapman.co.uk<mailto:john.smith-daye@lambert-chapman.co.uk>; Cllr. Neil Stock, Leader of the Council; Simon Meecham
Subject: RE: Local Plan

Dear Cllr Mooney

Thank you for your message proposing areas for further investigation in respect of the objectively assessed housing need for Tendring. I will consider your various points and discuss your suggestion that the Council should engage further in order to try to lower the housing figure for the Local Plan with Cllr Neil Stock, as Chairman of the Local Plan Committee.

Kind regards
Cath.

From: Cllr A. Mooney
Sent: 20 October 2015 09:03
To: Catherine Bicknell
Cc: 'Douglas Carswell'; Cllr. Mark Stephenson; Cllr J. Broderick; Cllr. Jeffrey Bray; Cllr. Alex Porter; Cllr. Peter Cawthron; Cllr. Richard Everett; chairman@trlg.org.uk<mailto:chairman@trlg.org.uk>; john.smith-daye@lambert-chapman.co.uk<mailto:john.smith-daye@lambert-chapman.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Local Plan

Dear Cath Bicknell,

I understood from our phone conversation on Monday morning that you feel no other actions are necessary to deliver against the motion at the last local plan meeting to seek a lower dpa figure from PBA. The meeting with the PBA consultant last Thursday was a repetition of the contents of the last PBA report. As such it fulfils neither the letter nor the spirit

of the motion “to go back to the authors of the above-mentioned study to investigate the matters raised by the Committee in respect of figures and assumptions in the study and to explore the possibility of revising its conclusions with a view to setting lower housing growth figures for Tendring”.

The PBA consultant did highlight some of the many opportunities to achieve a lower DPA target figure. These include:

- Define a different HMA:- Possibly Colchester and Tendring. Different consultants?
- Population forecasts:- I believe that we were told that the revised approach to the UPC left a flat trend between the censuses. So, investigate the data/maths in detail to understand how a flat 2001 – 2011 trend becomes a 280dpa figure on a 5 year trend and 479dpa on a 10 year trend.
- Demographics :- At some point in the process, possibly prior to getting to 479dpa, PBA have taken into account; increased migration from a larger UK population, smaller households, longer lives. We should see the data/maths for these. Increased UK population is down to international immigration, which does not come to Tendring, and there is no data to support a decrease in household size during the plan period. Longer lives is [presumably] correct, but offset by people working longer. We should see the data/maths.
- Housing restriction:- The consultant was very keen that there was evidence a restriction in housing supply, in the face of the house price facts and ignoring affordability data. Indeed contradicting their own report. Failing that he said we would pick up a 10% or 20% uplift because there had been a gap when we did not have an approved plan in place. The rationale for this stance on uplift requires further investigation.
- EPOA jobs adjustment:- We need to see the data/maths on this. It may very well be that there is a need for more people to maintain the working age population, but this does not all have to be done in dpa. A fall in unemployment would be welcome.

No doubt other opportunities to deliver a lower dpa from the OAHN study will emerge.

Please could I ask that Tendring DC now engage in a material way to achieve a lower dpa figure for the Local Plan. I recognise that a great deal of the details will be undertaken by TDC officers. However, I, and I am sure others, are more than willing to engage in this process and wish TDC officers to be fully transparent about any meetings, questions and answers.

If you feel that a meeting of some (or all?) of those copied on this email with TDC planning officers would help, then I am sure that can be arranged. Would you be able to advise as to whether a motion at the next Local Plan Committee (or full council?) would help to move this forward?

Kind regards, Ashley

Cllr John Ashley Mooney

m:- +44 7947 127595

e:- cllr.amooney@tendringdc.gov.uk<<mailto:cllr.amooney@tendringdc.gov.uk>>

Blog:- www.ashleymooney.uk<<http://www.ashleymooney.uk>>

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