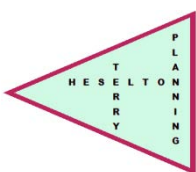


Independent Examination of the Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan

Examination Procedure Note

Terry Raymond Heselton BA (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI

Independent Examiner



Terry Heselton Planning

10 January 2020

I have been appointed by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, with the consent of Dinnington St John's Town Council, to undertake the independent examination of the Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Development Plan.

My role is to determine whether the Plan meets the 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements, and to recommend whether or not the Plan should proceed to referendum, with or without modifications.

The independent examination formally commences on Monday 13 January 2020, and is being undertaken in accordance with the guidance to service users and examiners published by NPIERS¹.

1 Examination Documents

I have received hard copies of the following Submission documents

- Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submission Draft September 2019)
- Basic Conditions Statement (August 2019)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report (February 2019)
- Addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report
- Consultation Statement (June 2019)
- Local Green Spaces Supporting Evidence (May 2019)
- Housing Need and Characteristics Supporting Evidence (March 2019)
- Character Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest Supporting Evidence (July 2019)
- Hot Food Take Aways Supporting Evidence (September 2019)
- Dinnington Town Centre Design Support - Supporting Evidence (January 2018)

I also have access to extant development plan documents covering the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the current development plan policies maps.

Should I require hard copies of other evidence base documents which I cannot access electronically, I will notify Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council during the course of the examination.

2 Representations

The Regulation 16 Publicity period closed at 5.00 pm on Friday 20 December 2019. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council have subsequently provided me with a copy of all valid representations received during the Publicity period and in the interests of openness and transparency I have requested that these

¹ Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service.

are published on the Borough Council's website.

In line with NPIERS guidance I am also providing Dinnington St John's Town Council the opportunity to comment on any representations submitted by other parties at the Regulation 16 Publicity stage, provided such comments do not include new evidence. However I emphasise that there is no obligation on them to make any comments should they not wish to do so.

If I do not receive any comments from the Town Council (forwarded to me via Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) within 10 working days following the commencement of the Examination I will assume the Town Council do not wish to offer any comments and proceed with the examination. Any comments submitted by the Town Council should be published on the Borough Council's website.

3 The Need for a Hearing

The default position is for examination of the issues to be undertaken through consideration of written representations, unless the examiner considers that a public hearing is necessary to ensure adequate examination of an issue (or issues) or to ensure that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

Based on an initial high-level assessment of the relevant documentation, including the Regulation 16 responses, I will provide a preliminary opinion as to whether the examination is to be solely by way of written representations or whether a hearing will be required.

However if I decide to proceed with the examination by way of written representations I will keep the need for a hearing under review as the examination progresses and advise you further should it be necessary to arrange a hearing.

4 Visit to the Plan Area

I intend as part of the examination to visit the neighbourhood plan area in order to better understand the nature of the Plan and the Plan area, including issues raised through representations. This will be undertaken unaccompanied to ensure impartiality unless I require access to private land in which case I will contact the Borough Council in advance to arrange an accompanied visit.

5 Communication during the Examination

During the course of the examination I will direct any questions or points of clarification which arise to my single point of contact at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Rachel Overfield, who may in certain circumstances need to consult Dinnington St John's Town Council in order to provide a fully considered written response. It would be helpful if all communication/responses from the Town Council could be directed to me via the Borough Council. In the interests of impartiality I would request that no other party attempts to contact me direct.

6 'Fact Checking' stage

On completion of the examination I will send a confidential draft of my report to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to check whether there are any factual errors such as dates, sequence of events, names and so on.

The fact check should be undertaken in consultation with Dinnington St John's Town Council, and I emphasise that this is not an opportunity to make further representations.

I would request the Borough Council to provide a co-ordinated response. Ten working days are normally considered sufficient for this process.

I will endeavour to issue my final report within 5 working days of the receipt of any identified factual errors.

7 Openness and Transparency

It is important that the examination process is open and transparent to all interested parties, and that relevant documentation and correspondence is placed in the public domain. I therefore request that this note and future correspondence between myself and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council concerning the examination, including any requests for clarification on specific points and the Council's response, should be published on the Borough Council's website.

If further clarification is required about the examination process I would be pleased to address questions raised by any of the parties with a direct interest in the examination.

Terry Heselton BA(Hons), Dip TP, MTRPI

Independent Examiner

10 January 2020