

Mill Farm,
Long Clawson,
Leicestershire. LE14 4NU

20 August 2017

Melton Borough Council,
Parkside,
Melton Mowbray,
LE13 1GH

Dear Sirs,
Melton Local Plan.

I attended the Drop In event at Long Clawson Village Hall on 1st August to view the proposals relating to the Melton Local Plan.

I have to say at the outset that this, so called, event was very amateurish and not what was expected at all. I was expecting something far more enlightening.

This Melton Local Plan is to put in place a future Council policy covering the next 20 years or so and this Drop In event should have been imparting far more information.

The displayed documents were poorly fixed and dropping off the display boards, the documents were laminated and the reflection made reading them difficult.

The small documents or posters on display didn't assist either when groups of interested parties were attempting to read them.

The display boards should have been spaced much further apart giving those attending the personal space to feel comfortable and taking the time to fully digest and attempting to understand the information being imparted.

I personally found the information being shown very confusing, e.g. the various proposed sites of our own village housing schemes, Long Clawson, were identified by using 'Long1' 'Long2' etc..

There were however two different 'Long2' schemes highlighted. The two ladies attending from the Council didn't immediately know the reason.

It was only after investigations that it became apparent there was a mistake and that one of these schemes was an old one and not now being progressed. They had given the latest proposal an abandoned/refused/withdrawn scheme number.

Setting aside the confusing but now obvious mistake - why was it not highlighted that Long2 was no longer being considered? Surely giving the later scheme a different (unused number) would have been far more sensible and less confusing.

I came away from this event even more confused with the latest draft proposals than I was previously. I draw attention to the above to enforce my own view that Joe Public is being 'bamboozled' into accepting the Melton Local Plan due to the 'deliberately' confusing and overcomplicated way the proposal are being presented to us residents.

The vast draft consultation document was frankly far too lengthy and complicated; e.g. many individual questions asked if that particular clause was legal!

Whilst I am not an academic I do consider my intelligence to be at a level somewhere approaching that of the average Joe Public but how Joe Public can be expected to know that answer is beyond me.

I have attempted to struggle my way through the latest Local Plan document but due to frustration with it being very user un-friendly I gave up. Frankly, that it is not at all user friendly only furthers my opinion that it is deliberately complicated in the expectation that people will not bother to wade all the way through it and therefore provide meaningful responses that could be considered. Therefore giving me the feeling that MBC have made it deliberately complicated and user un-friendly so Joe Public do not respond.

MBC can then put forward the argument that as there were only a few responses and objections that generally Joe Public is accepting what is being proposed.

The strength of feeling of everyone I have spoken to, (with the exception of the landowners who expect to profit from the housing proposals) are vehemently against the proposals for Long Clawson at least and for the villages generally.

MBC are completely and totally ignoring the wishes of the residents of this village at least. Evidence has been produced to highlight the lack of sustainability, lack of flood protection, lack of general infrastructure, lack of safe highways and footpaths. Etc.,.

This seems to have been totally ignored.

To illustrate one further indication of the confusion surrounding this whole Melton Local Plan please allow me to add a further discovery made only 3 days ago;

The Council says individuals can submit views on the Local Plan on line at:

<https://meltonboroughcouncil.citizenspace.com/>

Upon accessing this site and going to the Frisby on the Wreake - Reg 16 Consultation. By clicking on the 'here' to access The Neighbourhood Plan and Supporting Documents, you get to Neighbourhood development plans, Wymondham and Edmonthorpe!

I am unable to find Frisby Reg 16 Consultation.

How can we trust anything being published by MBC as being correct, accurate and up-to-date?

My comments and concerns conveyed to you previously in October 2016 are still relevant and trust they will be considered by the inspector.

To re-iterate my October '16 opinion, it is blindingly obvious that any planning decisions relating to this village at least needs to be deferred until both the Melton Plan is finalised and the Six Hills Garden village proposal is approved.

Kindly acknowledge safe receipt of this email and letter.

I would be pleased to be kept informed of the progress of the Local Plan.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony Thomas