

Asfordby Neighbourhood Development Plan

Hearing Note

Context

This note clarifies the next stages of the examination process and expands on the earlier note about the need for a hearing. The examination of the submitted Plan is proceeding well. I have visited the neighbourhood area, read the submitted documents and the representations made to the Plan. I have also prepared a clarification note and read the responses to that note.

Hearing

I am satisfied that most of the Plan can be examined by way of written representations. However, in accordance with paragraph 9(3) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 I have concluded that it is necessary to hold a hearing on the contents of Policy A1 of the submitted Plan.

Hearing Details

The hearing details are as follows:

Date: Thursday 18 May 2023

Time: 13:30

Venue: Asfordby Parish Hall, 24 Main Street, Asfordby LE14 3SA

The participants

The following organisations have been invited to attend the hearing:

- Asfordby Parish Council;
- Melton Borough Council
- Jelson Homes; and
- Deeley Homes.

The various parties should be represented by no more than two persons at either of the two sessions. The public are welcome to attend the hearing. However, there will be no opportunity for other bodies or the public to participate directly in the debate.

The issues and the hearing sessions

The hearing will have two sessions. The participants invited to attend both sessions.

Session 1

- How have the proposed boundaries of the Asfordby and Asfordby Valley and the Asfordby Hill/Valley and Kirby Bellars Areas of Separation been defined in the submitted neighbourhood plan?
- Is the way in which these two Areas of Separation are shown on Map 2 in the Plan in general conformity with Policy EN4 of the Melton Local Plan?
- To what extent does Policy EN4 of the Melton Local Plan already provide sufficient detail to secure the ongoing separation between settlements in the neighbourhood area for development management purposes?

Session 2

- What are the issues which have caused Asfordby Parish Council to propose an additional Area of Separation between Asfordby Hill and Asfordby Valley?
- Would the way in which the proposed Area of Separation between Asfordby Hill and Asfordby Valley as shown on Map 2 of the Plan be in general conformity with Policy EN4 of the Melton Local Plan?

The hearing itself

I would like to meet with the participants at 12:45 on the day of the hearing at the venue. This meeting will discuss the detailed format of the hearing. It will not discuss the substantive matters to be debated at the hearing.

The hearing will address the matters identified for each session. I will ask the various questions and lead any follow-up discussions. A neighbourhood plan hearing is intended to achieve a balance between getting to the heart of the issues identified and having a light-touch approach so that lay people can both understand and take an active part in its proceedings. The hearing will proceed on this basis. There will be no opportunity for any party to question the other parties. As the representations made by the parties invited to the hearing are clear and comprehensive, I am satisfied that additional hearing statements are not required.

The next steps after the hearing

I will finalise my report on the submitted Plan as quickly as possible after the hearing. The elements of the report on the remainder of the Plan will have been completed before the hearing takes place.

The examiner's report

The hearing introduces an additional stage into the examination process rather than affecting the way in which the report will be produced and finalised. I will send a fact check report to the Borough Council and the Parish Council (as set out in the note on examination arrangements). The final report will be published once the fact-checking process has concluded. The main findings of the hearing will be incorporated within the report on a policy-by-policy basis.

Andrew Ashcroft
Independent Examiner
Asfordby Neighbourhood Development Plan

25 April 2023