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31 August 2015

Councillor Michael Stokes
Leader, Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall
Evreux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

(NB: sent by email to Cathy.Gall@rugby.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Michael Stokes

Brandon Stadium – Rugby Local Plan

In our earlier letter to you (dated 30 July 2015) we promised to send a suggestion for a possible policy for inclusion in the ongoing review of the Local Plan.

A draft for your consideration is attached. We have yet to share this with the action group and local community but were keen to get something to you before the end of August.

We would, of course, be happy to discuss this further with the Council at your convenience.

David h. Caster

Yours sincerely

Pete Lawrence & Dave Carter

Rugby Development Plan

Proposed form of words for Rugby Borough Council to consider for possible inclusion as part of the review of the local plan.

Policy: Brandon Stadium and Community Hub

Brandon Stadium is an important venue of national significance for motorsport providing the home for Coventry Bees Speedway team since 1928 and stock car racing since 1954. As such the stadium will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced to ensure it endures as a motorsports venue attracting users and spectators locally, regionally and from wider afield contributing significantly to the local economy.

There is potential for limited intensification, on non-event days and, diversification in the uses that take place on the site and proposals which are both complementary and ancillary to the main use and/or provide services supporting the local community. Such proposals will be favourably considered subject to the continuing Green Belt designation of the stadium site and that the proposals both individually or combined do not lead to a significant increase in traffic impacting on either the A428 or its junction with the A46.

Supporting text:

The importance of Brandon Stadium as a motorsports venue is recognised and the Rugby Development Plan will support the continued operation of the venue. The policy also recognises that the stadium site has potential to accommodate additional activities which could help underpin the viability of the main use as well as potential to meet the on-going needs of the local community. This is the preferred approach.

For clarity, in the event of proposals for the redevelopment of the site emerging which would involve demolition and/or discontinuance of the stadium use, then the approach to be followed would only be to consider such development subject to equivalent or better quantity and quality replacement sports provision elsewhere within Rugby Borough, or through negotiation under the duty to co-operate within the wider area. It is reasonable to anticipate the proceeds which might be realised in the event of redevelopment would help facilitate the alternative replacement provision.

The approach towards Brandon Stadium is consistent with national policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.