

RUGBY LOCAL PLANNING

Submission to The Inspector by:

Save Dunchurch (A Medieval Village) Action Group

1.0 Introduction

We are a small self financing group of Dunchurch Villagers who put the welfare of the local community at the heart of our objectives to maintain a sustainable village life, whilst accommodating local needs.

We are Chaired by Michael Judge, MBE and have offered our support and services to the Dunchurch Parish Council. We hope to work in co-operation with the Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to help guide and influence the Rugby Local Plan. We hope some of our members will be selected to participate in the Committee that will complete and publish the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.0 Our Objectives

2.1 To maintain a peaceful village environment/rural life and existence.

2.2 To minimise environmental damage, recognising the Dunchurch Crossroads already has a significant Nox pollution level – the highest in the Rugby District, which the Borough Council has ignored for too long.

2.3 To maintain and improve on our Green Environment.

2.4 To deliver suitable and adequate local housing and employment to local people.

2.5 To reduce community commuting journeys.

2.6 To deliver a sustainable and sympathetic Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with the Parish Council that shapes and models the Rugby Local Plan. It beggars belief that the County and Borough Councils have developed a Local Plan without the input of the local community.

2.7 To engage with the Local Authorities on an equal footing and not be bullied by their drive and greed to obtain extra revenue.

2.8 To establish a village bypass/ring road similar to that provided locally to Crick.

3.0 Our Objections

3.1 Local politicians and council employees, at all levels, have failed in their due diligence towards the needs and welfare of the local

community, examples being, insufficient consultation, failure to provide adequate evidence and documentation and lack of any consideration or sympathy to the local needs. We are underwhelmed with their engagement.

- 3.2** Pollution, in particular Nox emissions at the Dunchurch Crossroads is already higher than the Government Quality Objectives. Is it understood that a report in 2014 identified this level as being 16% above European Acceptable Standards. It would be improper for approval to be granted that allows more vehicle traffic to make a bad situation much worse, perhaps even illegal? Pollution is not just Nox emissions. Questions have been asked on the following without adequate answers:
- Light pollution from proposed warehousing.
 - Noise pollution from current traffic levels.
 - Vibration arising from Heavy Goods Vehicles passing through the village at speed. This is further exacerbated by these long multi wheeled heavy goods vehicles being unable to negotiate safe turns at the crossroads, needing to come across the road endangering both pedestrians and oncoming traffic. Evidence being that recently 5 traffic signals at the cross roads have required repair/replacement. It is fortunate that no one was injured, but it is only a matter of time, not if but when?
 - Accurate Nox measurements that do not rely on inaccurate absorption tubes. It is most likely that Nox pollution at Station 24 is much higher than being reported.
 - Insufficient traffic modelling for through traffic now and in the proposed future.
- 3.3** Projected local housing needs of 12,500 in the near future has not been substantiated or justified. Assuming an average of 4 persons per household, this is equivalent of 50,000 residents or 50% of the current Rugby population. This could also represent an additional 20,000 plus cars on the already congested and polluted local roads. Considering Rugby Gateway, Houlton and windfall sites, this suggests a gross exaggeration of housing needs by the Authority. From recent news stories we are aware of 800,000 plus houses not being built due to land banking and greed by Local Authorities. Is this yet another example of an impossible objective?
- 3.4** Proposed alterations to the Dunchurch Crossroads in providing an extra lane for traffic to turn right onto Coventry Road from the Rugby Road is fanciful. By moving the Lord John Scott Montague Scott, Duke of Buccleuch statue (which we are vehemently against) only a few cars/vehicles will be freed up to move before the bottle neck reforms. Pedestrian safety is also an issue, at one point the footpath is little more than 2 foot wide.

3.5 It is not acceptable for the Borough Council to deliver a Relief Road once a certain number of houses have been built. It is important that all additional infrastructure is phased in appropriately, such as schools, surgeries, roads, sewage, water and gas supplies, etc. We are not impressed with the Borough Council's planning performance to date, as demonstrated at the Junction 1/Elliots Field debacle.

4.0 **Our conclusion is that the Rugby Local Plan is not sustainable**, is grossly exaggerated and has a very high likelihood to fail in its present form. Whatever changes are made to this plan, it is evident that a bypass around Dunchurch is the only solution to the problem of unacceptable Nox pollution at the Dunchurch Crossroads and other pollution issues. It is interesting to note that the Department for Transport has recently announced funding for bypasses, the strap line being "build those bypasses". It is presumed that Rugby Borough Council is preparing an application on behalf of the Dunchurch Community?

5.0 **Results from recent questionnaires posted to all Dunchurch properties prior to Christmas.**

The closing date for participation is not until the 6th January 2018 and then an informed analysis needs to take place in conjunction with the Parish Council. Nonetheless a draft of the initial findings is included with this paper. Anyone perusing this will observe the local community are unanimous in their aspirations for a sustainable and sensible Local Plan for the future, one much different to that being proposed by Rugby Borough Council. To date almost 200 respondents have made clear their expectations and requirements.