

Update on Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan

Since the Drinkstone Neighbourhood plan was examined and approved for referendum there has been a high court challenge on a plan in Somerset that their Local Green Space Policy setting out the types of development that may be permitted within Local Green Spaces is more restrictive than national policy and the additional restrictions have not been sufficiently justified in the plan. It effectively means that development proposals for LGS should be determined in accordance with the Green Belt Policies in the NPPF and the sentences as follows at the bottom of our Policy DRN 8 are not legal.

“Development on these sites will only be permitted in very special circumstances. Permitted development rights including operational requirements of infrastructure providers, are not affected by this designation.”

Mid Suffolk are therefore proposing to undertake a short (4 weeks has been suggested) consultation to amend the policy by removing the last two sentences and put forward alternative wording. I am reassured that this will not impact upon the date of the referendum, notwithstanding the latest situation with Covid 19. Mid Suffolk will contact The Parish Council shortly regarding the consultation.

We do not need to consider a reprint of the Neighbourhood Plan at this stage. Once MSDC have completed the consultation the website version can be updated. Once the Neighbourhood Plan has gone through and passed the referendum, we could see if we can get a further grant for that printing.

Peter Holborn

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