

Hi Lynette - Please could you pass this on to the Inspector - I am e-mailing you in Tim's stead. Thank you. Peter

Lynette,

I have a couple of points of clarification concerning Mr Hollox's recent letter which I would be grateful if you could ask Mr Hollox about:

1) In paragraph 6 Mr Hollox recommends that we take the latest information into account, that is the latest national statistics on the projected number of households in England published in April. I can confirm that we will be taking this up to date information into account and will work with Rother District Council and the County Council to update the evidence base, using all relevant sources and taking into account local circumstances, to ascertain the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in both the Borough and the housing market area. However, this work will not be completed for quite a few weeks. This paragraph does not seem to suggest we need to consult upon the ONS figures in terms of a housing target. However in paragraph 8 Mr Hollox lists the need to consult on the ONS figures. We are trying to be clear what we should be asking as part of the consultation. In such a consultation do we make people aware of the existence of the ONS figures (suitable weblinks and documents available for reference) and ask them to take them into account in making further representations on the Planning Strategy or are we asking them a different question? Without processing the figures in a demographic model a comparable dwelling figure would not be available for people to comment upon.

Do we consult on:

(a) the trend base figure change as suggested - to 7,493 (HBC/MM/3)
(b) a new calculated trend base figure - using "howmanyhomes.org" and/or the new ONS data - as yet unknown (this will require some or all of the work indicated above)

or

(c) No actual figure - inform readers that there is new data available and ask them to suggest to us a compelling reason to choose a particular number.

- We could consult on (a) and (b) and then suggest that people use the new ONS data to back up their argument for any suggested change.

2) Notwithstanding the above, in respect of the Main Modifications we would be consulting on a change in the trend based dwelling figure but maintain our target at 3,400. With the changes in the text at 4.11 we would presumably need to also briefly explain in the text that we are unable to accommodate the trend based figure because Hastings is very physically constrained being mainly a fairly densely developed built up area, with environmental constraints and we have sought to balance the need for housing with the provision for employment, social, recreation and environmental purposes.

Regards,

Tim Cookson, Strategic Planning Manager
HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

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From: Lynetteljdassoc@aol.com [mailto:Lynetteljdassoc@aol.com]

Sent: 25 April 2013 09:45

To: Tim Cookson

Cc: Stephanie Roots; Kerry Culbert; Peter Canavan

Subject: Letter from the Inspector

Tim

I attach a letter from the Inspector (ID/11). I have been away for the last few days so sorry it is 3 days old.

1. The Inspector has asked in covering emails, that you delay consultations for a couple of days to give him time to go through the evidence on employment etc just in case he thinks there might be scope for another Main Modification. He wishes to stress that he is doing all he can to progress the Planning Strategy.
2. The Inspector has also asked that you send to him, via me, relevant documents (map & appraisal) of a couple of Conservation Areas. He suggests the Old Town and Burtons' St Leonards.

Regards

Lynette

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