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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 07 November 2024 21:23
To: Local Plan
Subject: Wirral's Local Plan - Consultation on Main Modifications.

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Dear Sirs

The Wirral Local Plan Examination Planning Inspectors

On behalf of the Mountwood Society Committee and myself, as Chairman, we wish to confirm that we totally endorse all that has been stated by the Wirral Green Space Alliance.

The unique Wirral is dappled with large areas of treasured, delightful, historic Green Belt. Due to the peninsula's size ,it is imperative that this situation is respected, preserved and enhanced.

We respond below to the following Statements which apply to each Modification. We have read and agree to the Consultation Data Protection Notice. We have followed the stages of development and support the Wirral Local Plan. We wish it to be firmly adopted in its sound entirety with the least possible delay in order to safeguard Wirral's future.

As already stated above , we continue to acknowledge the tireless commitments and respect the vast professional expertise of the Wirral Green Space Alliance,(W.G.S,A.) The responses given below must be considered, recorded and counted as of paramount importance.

a) MM1

Delivering Growth through sustainable low carbon regeneration.

We confirm that exceptional circumstances to justify alterations to the Green Belt boundaries, set out in the National Planning Policy, does NOT exist on Wirral.

b) MM3

Housing Need

In addition to :-

MM5(Para D)

MM65 (Appendix 4)

MM6

We support the Local Plan with regard to the total supply figure of 11,814 net dwellings over the Plan Period upto 2040 . This more than caters for Wirral's true "Housing Need". This obviously reflects the levels that are currently deliverable and developable. Regeneration will improve Market Confidence as further sources of supply become available.

c) AM32

Housing Need

We have been reliably informed that the Council followed legal advice in calculating "Housing Need".The out-of-date Government Data produced an inflated figure of "Need".

It is of paramount importance that control of Development and Growth is clearly directed. The current Plan Review allows scope for deviation from the accurate figures. Securing a required , sound Delivery is key, in so doing avoiding risk to any adjustment of "Housing Need" inaccuracies for Wirral.

On this note, our suggestion would be an additional clause, reflecting that, post the Adoption of the Local Plan, using the best up-to-date Data, methodology and a locally "Objectively Assessed Need", be undertaken and included.

d) MM40

(Policy WP8 Policy for the Rural Area - Agricultural Land)

Best & Most Versatile Green Belt
Agricultural Land (B&MV)

The modification of the text has been exacerbated to the extent that the prescriptive protection of agricultural land has been somewhat watered down.

The crucial, unanimous vote NOT to release ANY productive agricultural land for development sadly does NOT feature within the Council Policy.

The maintenance and enhancement of the Rural Economy on Wirral is of strategic importance locally in an uncertain world of conflict, international competition, depleted Nature and vastly increasing Climate Change.

A.

Within the new paragraph, it should read:-

" - - areas of poorer quality land must be prioritised and instances of non-use must be justified."

NOT as stated - - " areas of poorer quality land should be preferred ."

B.

The phrase within this paragraph, " - - loss of agricultural land "must be accompanied by the word 'significant' and therefore should read, " - - significant loss of agricultural land"

This statement is supported but undefined as to extent which should be complemented by :- " In the opinion of the Council " would carry more weight.

Due to the extremely serious nature of Wirral's Local Plan , we trust that you will give our response firm and appropriate consideration.

Kind regards

Kay Crook
Chairman Mountwood Society

Sent from my iPhone