

Steve Atkinson MA(Oxon) MBA FioD FRSA
Chief Executive



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

Please Ask For: Councillor David Bill
Direct Dial/Ext: 01455 238141
Direct Fax: 01455 251172
Email: david.bill@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Our Ref: 141003.DBMM
Date: 3 October 2014

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Clegg,

GENUINE LOCAL VOICE IN PLANNING

If there is one message to be gleaned from both the Euro elections and the Scottish Referendum it is that there is a strong feeling of disillusionment with Whitehall and Westminster and that the views of local people are not being heeded. More powers are now being given to Scotland and this has resulted in an even stronger feeling that more notice should be taken of the views of communities in England.

This is particularly significant in the case of planning, where there is a feeling that the views of local people and their elected representatives are being increasingly over-ruled by the Government, often through the decisions of the Planning Inspectorate.

We wish to put forward the proposition that the planning system as presently operated through the National Planning Policy Framework is not fit for purpose and needs to be reformed so as to give a genuine voice to local opinion and concern.

The case outlined here is the situation faced by ourselves in Hinckley & Bosworth, but we are very much aware that similar situations exist in many other parts of the country.

We accept the need to plan for the expansion of housing supply to meet future needs, but we submit that notice should be taken of those in the local communities that are directly affected so that development takes place in a controlled manner that is truly sustainable and plan led. The failure of the current planning system to secure this is creating a reality where incremental development is being brought forward in locations without appropriate investment in the infrastructure that is needed to fulfil locally agreed economic, social and environmental objectives. The approach that is enabled by the NPPF is not securing the 'genuinely plan led' approach that it intended to support through its core planning principles and is therefore failing to shape a truly sustainable pattern of development.



Ask for Fairtrade products

Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be **A Fairtrade Borough**



Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

There has been a pro-active approach to planning in Hinckley & Bosworth through extensive liaison with our local communities in order to create a sustainable framework for the future development of the area. Indeed, in December 2009 we became the first individual authority in the East Midlands to adopt a Core Strategy. The preparation of a local plan requires a major investment of time and resources, with the intended reward being certainty to our communities and local infrastructure providers on the way in which planning decisions that will affect the future of their area can be made.

The Borough's Core Strategy includes details of how identified development requirements are to be distributed in a sustainable way across a hierarchy of towns and villages over a period of 20 years. Its sustainability was appraised through the plan making process. Taken in the context of a long term strategic approach, these decisions were taken through a recent and comprehensive community consultation exercise. The Council has fully accepted the challenge of planning for growth and through hard work reached a position where many of its communities have positively interacted in the plan preparation process and accepted an appropriate share of the borough's growth requirements. This strategic approach to planning is a 'genuinely plan led approach' and enables a sustainable pattern of development.

The NPPF also talks of future development being 'genuinely plan led'. However, the reality of its implementation in practice has been far from this. For example, the introduction of the need for a 5% or 20% buffer on top of the five year housing land supply requirement has made it less likely that an authority will be able to demonstrate a five year housing land supply and thus take its own adopted vision for a sustainable pattern of development into account in decision making.

It appears that it is only in rare circumstances that a planning appeal will be dismissed where an authority is unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. The only solution is therefore for local planning authorities to accept ad-hoc proposals for housing, often against the policies of a relatively recently adopted long term plan and of course the wishes of the local communities that so actively engaged in its preparation.

The Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy sets a vision based primarily on focusing development in the urban area with more limited growth in the rural areas. The urban area is where the borough's main services are concentrated and is the most sustainable location in which to focus future development and support a sustainable boost in housing supply. Unfortunately, the perception is that the NPPF has provided the opportunity for the development industry to turn its attention to less sustainable, but potentially more profitable, rural locations ahead of the sites that they control in and around the urban area.



Ask for Fairtrade products

Hinckley Hub • Rugby Road • Hinckley • Leics • LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 • MDX No 716429 • Fax 01455 251172 • www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be **A Fairtrade Borough**



Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Further to this, the rhetoric associated with the emergence of the localism agenda gave a strong and positive impression that local people would be empowered to shape their surroundings. Many communities have actively engaged in the local plan process and several have ambitiously sought to introduce neighbourhood plans. However, these communities have unfortunately encountered the challenges that come with plan-making. Specifically, this includes the need to play 'catch up' through the plan-making process before inevitably being faced with speculative planning applications for development prior to reaching the stages of the plan preparation process where any significant weight can be applied to their plan in the context of a planning application.

These unfortunate impacts of the NPPF have led to a position where many local communities in this area feel short changed from the time and effort that they have put into influencing the Local Plan and their own neighbourhood plans. The planning system that the NPPF has fashioned is seen to favour the development industry and gives very limited ability to local communities to shape their own futures. A re-think is therefore needed at a national level in order to re-dress the balance and restore the feeling of confidence that you would expect from a 'genuinely plan-led system'.

Yours sincerely,



David Bill MBE
Borough and County Councillor



Michael Mullaney
Borough and County Councillor



Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR
Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be **A Fairtrade Borough**

Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Steve Atkinson MA(Oxon) MBA FioD FRSA
Chief Executive



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

Please Ask For: Councillor David Bill
Direct Dial/Ext: 01455 238141
Direct Fax: 01455 251172
Email: david.bill@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Our Ref: 141003.DBMM
Date: 3 October 2014

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Cameron,

GENUINE LOCAL VOICE IN PLANNING

If there is one message to be gleaned from both the Euro elections and the Scottish Referendum it is that there is a strong feeling of disillusionment with Whitehall and Westminster and that the views of local people are not being heeded. More powers are now being given to Scotland and this has resulted in an even stronger feeling that more notice should be taken of the views of communities in England.

This is particularly significant in the case of planning, where there is a feeling that the views of local people and their elected representatives are being increasingly over-ruled by the Government, often through the decisions of the Planning Inspectorate.

We wish to put forward the proposition that the planning system as presently operated through the National Planning Policy Framework is not fit for purpose and needs to be reformed so as to give a genuine voice to local opinion and concern.

The case outlined here is the situation faced by ourselves in Hinckley & Bosworth, but we are very much aware that similar situations exist in many other parts of the country.

We accept the need to plan for the expansion of housing supply to meet future needs, but we submit that notice should be taken of those in the local communities that are directly affected so that development takes place in a controlled manner that is truly sustainable and plan led. The failure of the current planning system to secure this is creating a reality where incremental development is being brought forward in locations without appropriate investment in the infrastructure that is needed to fulfil locally agreed economic, social and environmental objectives. The approach that is enabled by the NPPF is not securing the 'genuinely plan led' approach that it intended to support through its core planning principles and is therefore failing to shape a truly sustainable pattern of development.



Ask for Fairtrade products

Hinckley Hub • Rugby Road • Hinckley • Leics • LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 • MDX No 716429 • Fax 01455 251172 • www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be A Fairtrade Borough



Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

There has been a pro-active approach to planning in Hinckley & Bosworth through extensive liaison with our local communities in order to create a sustainable framework for the future development of the area. Indeed, in December 2009 we became the first individual authority in the East Midlands to adopt a Core Strategy. The preparation of a local plan requires a major investment of time and resources, with the intended reward being certainty to our communities and local infrastructure providers on the way in which planning decisions that will affect the future of their area can be made.

The Borough's Core Strategy includes details of how identified development requirements are to be distributed in a sustainable way across a hierarchy of towns and villages over a period of 20 years. Its sustainability was appraised through the plan making process. Taken in the context of a long term strategic approach, these decisions were taken through a recent and comprehensive community consultation exercise. The Council has fully accepted the challenge of planning for growth and through hard work reached a position where many of its communities have positively interacted in the plan preparation process and accepted an appropriate share of the borough's growth requirements. This strategic approach to planning is a 'genuinely plan led approach' and enables a sustainable pattern of development.

The NPPF also talks of future development being 'genuinely plan led'. However, the reality of its implementation in practice has been far from this. For example, the introduction of the need for a 5% or 20% buffer on top of the five year housing land supply requirement has made it less likely that an authority will be able to demonstrate a five year housing land supply and thus take its own adopted vision for a sustainable pattern of development into account in decision making.

It appears that it is only in rare circumstances that a planning appeal will be dismissed where an authority is unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. The only solution is therefore for local planning authorities to accept ad-hoc proposals for housing, often against the policies of a relatively recently adopted long term plan and of course the wishes of the local communities that so actively engaged in its preparation.

The Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy sets a vision based primarily on focusing development in the urban area with more limited growth in the rural areas. The urban area is where the borough's main services are concentrated and is the most sustainable location in which to focus future development and support a sustainable boost in housing supply. Unfortunately, the perception is that the NPPF has provided the opportunity for the development industry to turn its attention to less sustainable, but potentially more profitable, rural locations ahead of the sites that they control in and around the urban area.



Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

*Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be **A Fairtrade Borough***

Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste

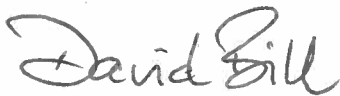


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Further to this, the rhetoric associated with the emergence of the localism agenda gave a strong and positive impression that local people would be empowered to shape their surroundings. Many communities have actively engaged in the local plan process and several have ambitiously sought to introduce neighbourhood plans. However, these communities have unfortunately encountered the challenges that come with plan-making. Specifically, this includes the need to play 'catch up' through the plan-making process before inevitably being faced with speculative planning applications for development prior to reaching the stages of the plan preparation process where any significant weight can be applied to their plan in the context of a planning application.

These unfortunate impacts of the NPPF have led to a position where many local communities in this area feel short changed from the time and effort that they have put into influencing the Local Plan and their own neighbourhood plans. The planning system that the NPPF has fashioned is seen to favour the development industry and gives very limited ability to local communities to shape their own futures. A re-think is therefore needed at a national level in order to re-dress the balance and restore the feeling of confidence that you would expect from a 'genuinely plan-led system'.

Yours sincerely,



David Bill MBE
Borough and County Councillor



Michael Mullaney
Borough and County Councillor



Ask for Fairtrade products

Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be A Fairtrade Borough



Printed on recycled paper - 100% post-consumer waste

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Steve Atkinson MA(Oxon) MBA FioD FRSA
Chief Executive



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

Please Ask For: Councillor David Bill
Direct Dial/Ext: 01455 238141
Direct Fax: 01455 251172
Email: david.bill@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Our Ref: 141003.DBMM
Date: 3 October 2014

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Miliband,

GENUINE LOCAL VOICE IN PLANNING

If there is one message to be gleaned from both the Euro elections and the Scottish Referendum it is that there is a strong feeling of disillusionment with Whitehall and Westminster and that the views of local people are not being heeded. More powers are now being given to Scotland and this has resulted in an even stronger feeling that more notice should be taken of the views of communities in England.

This is particularly significant in the case of planning, where there is a feeling that the views of local people and their elected representatives are being increasingly over-ruled by the Government, often through the decisions of the Planning Inspectorate.

We wish to put forward the proposition that the planning system as presently operated through the National Planning Policy Framework is not fit for purpose and needs to be reformed so as to give a genuine voice to local opinion and concern.

The case outlined here is the situation faced by ourselves in Hinckley & Bosworth, but we are very much aware that similar situations exist in many other parts of the country.

We accept the need to plan for the expansion of housing supply to meet future needs, but we submit that notice should be taken of those in the local communities that are directly affected so that development takes place in a controlled manner that is truly sustainable and plan led. The failure of the current planning system to secure this is creating a reality where incremental development is being brought forward in locations without appropriate investment in the infrastructure that is needed to fulfil locally agreed economic, social and environmental objectives. The approach that is enabled by the NPPF is not securing the 'genuinely plan led' approach that it intended to support through its core planning principles and is therefore failing to shape a truly sustainable pattern of development.



Ask for Fairtrade products

Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be A Fairtrade Borough



Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

There has been a pro-active approach to planning in Hinckley & Bosworth through extensive liaison with our local communities in order to create a sustainable framework for the future development of the area. Indeed, in December 2009 we became the first individual authority in the East Midlands to adopt a Core Strategy. The preparation of a local plan requires a major investment of time and resources, with the intended reward being certainty to our communities and local infrastructure providers on the way in which planning decisions that will affect the future of their area can be made.

The Borough's Core Strategy includes details of how identified development requirements are to be distributed in a sustainable way across a hierarchy of towns and villages over a period of 20 years. Its sustainability was appraised through the plan making process. Taken in the context of a long term strategic approach, these decisions were taken through a recent and comprehensive community consultation exercise. The Council has fully accepted the challenge of planning for growth and through hard work reached a position where many of its communities have positively interacted in the plan preparation process and accepted an appropriate share of the borough's growth requirements. This strategic approach to planning is a 'genuinely plan led approach' and enables a sustainable pattern of development.

The NPPF also talks of future development being 'genuinely plan led'. However, the reality of its implementation in practice has been far from this. For example, the introduction of the need for a 5% or 20% buffer on top of the five year housing land supply requirement has made it less likely that an authority will be able to demonstrate a five year housing land supply and thus take its own adopted vision for a sustainable pattern of development into account in decision making.

It appears that it is only in rare circumstances that a planning appeal will be dismissed where an authority is unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. The only solution is therefore for local planning authorities to accept ad-hoc proposals for housing, often against the policies of a relatively recently adopted long term plan and of course the wishes of the local communities that so actively engaged in its preparation.

The Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy sets a vision based primarily on focusing development in the urban area with more limited growth in the rural areas. The urban area is where the borough's main services are concentrated and is the most sustainable location in which to focus future development and support a sustainable boost in housing supply. Unfortunately, the perception is that the NPPF has provided the opportunity for the development industry to turn its attention to less sustainable, but potentially more profitable, rural locations ahead of the sites that they control in and around the urban area.



Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

*Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be **A Fairtrade Borough***

Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Further to this, the rhetoric associated with the emergence of the localism agenda gave a strong and positive impression that local people would be empowered to shape their surroundings. Many communities have actively engaged in the local plan process and several have ambitiously sought to introduce neighbourhood plans. However, these communities have unfortunately encountered the challenges that come with plan-making. Specifically, this includes the need to play 'catch up' through the plan-making process before inevitably being faced with speculative planning applications for development prior to reaching the stages of the plan preparation process where any significant weight can be applied to their plan in the context of a planning application.

These unfortunate impacts of the NPPF have led to a position where many local communities in this area feel short changed from the time and effort that they have put into influencing the Local Plan and their own neighbourhood plans. The planning system that the NPPF has fashioned is seen to favour the development industry and gives very limited ability to local communities to shape their own futures. A re-think is therefore needed at a national level in order to re-dress the balance and restore the feeling of confidence that you would expect from a 'genuinely plan-led system'.

Yours sincerely,



David Bill MBE
Borough and County Councillor



Michael Mullaney
Borough and County Councillor



Hinckley Hub · Rugby Road · Hinckley · Leics · LE10 0FR

Telephone 01455 238141 · MDX No 716429 · Fax 01455 251172 · www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Hinckley and Bosworth is proud to be **A Fairtrade Borough**

Printed on recycled paper - 100% post consumer waste



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

