

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council

c/o Ecchinswell Village Hall
Ecchinswell RG20 4UB

via email to: Planning Policy Team
Basingstoke & Deane Council
Civic Offices, London Road
Basingstoke RG21 4AH

Attn: Matt Melville ([REDACTED])

Jessica Wells ([REDACTED])

22nd December 2022

Dear Matt, Jessica



ES&BG Neighbourhood Plan (2021 – 2039) and the Woodside View Decision by B&D BC DCC on 7th December 2022

Further to our discussion on 15th December 2022, we are writing to communicate the following points related to our Neighbourhood Plan. These were agreed by the ES&BG PC as Qualifying Body at a PC meeting on 14th December.

The Parish Council and parish residents were obviously disappointed by the DCC decision on Woodside View given established spatial policies, the level of local objection and the advanced state of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Following the decision, we have engaged the community by email and also held a public meeting on 14th December immediately before the Parish Council Meeting.

Residents attending the public meeting gave unanimous support to proceeding with the ES&BG Neighbourhood Plan in its current form. At the Parish Council Meeting immediately after, the PC also unanimously agreed to proceeding with the Plan in its current form.

The rationale for this is as follows:

- The vision and objectives for the parish that are central to the plan are unchanged and have received consistently strong support across the community.
- The policies and linked projects designed to deliver the vision and objectives remain valid.
- The plan is far more than a number of extra homes – policies concerning design codes, community facilities, green infrastructure, the preservation of landscape, views & heritage assets etc are vital to sustaining the rural character of the parish and its settlements.
- The plan sets out policies for a modest number of rural-style homes designed to meet the needs of the parish that were identified during extensive community consultation during the development of the plan. Specifically this is for around 15 homes in Bishops Green and 5 homes in Ecchinswell that are smaller in size, affordable to buy particularly by those with

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connections to the parish, and in a mix providing more options for couples, young families, the elderly and less mobile.

- By contrast, the Woodside View proposal is a commercially driven development that will in effect simply extend the Ash Road area of Bishops Green in terms of style and housing mix. Thus Woodside View does not directly address the needs of the community expressed during the Neighbourhood Plan development.

Residents considered the option of withdrawing/revising the plan following the Woodside View decision. However in the light of the above considerations, the benefits of proceeding with the plan in its current form are clear. Furthermore, there is real concern that the time required for any revision could let in further inappropriate large scale developments like that proposed by Catesby Estates.

We trust that our thinking on this matter is clear and has your support.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly or via the Parish Clerk ([REDACTED]).

Yours sincerely

Marian Dain

Marian Dain

Chair, Ecchinswell Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council.

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