



Helen Gregory

From: Brian and Suzie Forster [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 December 2012 16:48
To: LDF
Cc: steve smowton; Escrick Parish
Subject: LDF Representations - 7th set of changes
Importance: High
Attachments: ESCRICK PARISH COUNCIL reps 28.12.12.docx

Please find attached the representations on behalf of Escrick Parish Council.

I would be obliged to receive your formal confirmation of their receipt and your comments in due course. Please advise us when this matter will be discussed further and any future amendments to the LDF in due course.

Brian Forster
Vice Chair
Escrick Parish Council

ESCRICK PARISH COUNCIL

Chair S.R. Smowton chair@escrick.org

Clerk V. Cumberland clerk@escrick.org [REDACTED]

Escrick Parish Council Representations to Selby District Submission Draft Core Strategy Consultation on Further Proposed Changes (7th Set)

Re: Green Belt policy – and the implications to the proposed change of designation of Escrick from a Secondary Village to a Designated Service Village (DSV).

The importance of the Green Belt cannot be overstressed and any review of the same must be objectively undertaken. It must not be used as any excuse to review boundaries of settlements simply to allow residential development to take place, especially if this would in other circumstances be regarded as 'inappropriate'. The Inspector has suggested some re-phrasing in the Policy CPxx. We understand that the Inspector considers that the identification of Escrick as a DSV is soundly based but suggests that Policy CPIA (a) be annotated to clarify that Escrick is 'largely' surrounded by Green Belt and any development on Green Belt land would have to accord with Policy GBxx and the result of any Green Belt reviews. The word 'largely' is difficult to understand as the village is entirely surrounded by Green Belt and for this reason the Parish Council maintains its previous objection to the proposed change in designation from a secondary village to a DSV and asks the Inspector to reconsider his position on this issue. The York Green Belt is principally required to protect the approaches to the ancient City of York and its setting and is a longstanding strategic policy. It was only from 1996 that parishes to the North of Escrick have been excluded from Selby District and are now located within the City of York, but administrative boundaries do not affect the importance of the role of the Green Belt in this location in preserving the setting of the City of York. The importance of the Green Belt around Escrick is in no way diminished and must not be harmed when the majority of the rest of the District is located outside of the Green Belt and can provide alternative more suitable locations for development.

In the light of the above, we contend that the proposed wording of Policy CPxx Green Belt is not strong enough and is against the spirit of the Inspector's view that boundaries (of the Green Belt) should not be amended to simply accommodate development that, in any event, would be more appropriately located elsewhere. The proposed Revision C (i) (ii) and (iii) quite specifically conflicts with the views of the Inspector with regard to Escrick. This wording invites 'the development of limits of Escrick to be reviewed' and 'exceptional circumstances' will be argued by landowners who will claim that land **must** be excluded from the Green Belt to allow Escrick to fulfil its DSV function, rather than looking at whether 'exceptional circumstances' truly exist.

We therefore strongly OBJECT to the rewording and to the alteration of Paragraph E (was F). In this case the deletion of the words 'sites considered for removal from' weakens seriously the aims of the Policy. We contend that these alterations are specifically designed with Escrick in mind and yet would do nothing to help provide for the housing requirements of Selby District when more appropriate available locations exist.

We fully appreciate that the Core Strategy is intended to set the principles for a Green Belt review but consider that the suggested amendments to Policy GBxx are ill conceived. Policies aimed at dealing with the problems at Tadcaster unfortunately will open the flood gates for development elsewhere.

Due to the environmental constraints and geographical limitations discussed previously, there are very limited opportunities for potential development in Escrick. It is therefore not possible for a flexible approach to be applied to Escrick should it become a DSV. The change in status would therefore not be sound as there is no certainty that the role of a DSV could be accommodated. We therefore request that the Council and Inspector reconsiders our previous representations in this regard, as well as these representations regarding the proposed Green Belt policy, in determining these issues.

We would be obliged to be kept informed of all proceedings and in particular to those relating to these issues.

Steve Snowton
Chair, Escrick Parish Council
28.12.12