09 August 2023

To Christopher Lockhart-Mummery K.C.

Dear Mr Lockhart-Mummery,

Thank you for your Examiner’s Note 1 dated 2nd August 2023 in respect of the High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version Examination.

The High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan Working Committee met today (Wednesday 9th August) and they have asked me to reply. At paragraph 18 you invite the Council and the Parish Council to make brief responses to the Note. The Working Committee has discussed the content of the Note, which raises several fundamental and complex issues, which arise from the following facts:

1. the policies in the 2003 Medway Local Plan pre-date the introduction of the Basic Conditions in 2011;
2. that there is presently no emerging local plan for Medway; and
3. the major infrastructure proposals which are necessary pre-requisites to the identification and allocation of sites for development, including the Land East of High Halstow, have had their HIF funding completely withdrawn.
4. The transport assessment in the Redrow application treats the HIF transport infrastructure as the baseline for assessment.

Rather than the first step being an exploratory meeting with the main parties present, the Working Committee would prefer to meet with you informally without other parties being present, to clarify our options and the scope of what you consider possible, before responding fully to the points raised in Note 1.

If you consider that such a meeting would be inappropriate or unhelpful to the Examination, then we agree with you that an exploratory meeting would be the way forward and preferable to a Hearing.

We have problems with availability during the holiday season but we have identified the four days from 29th August to 1st September inclusive as being dates when the Working Committee could be available, should there be a convenient time and date within that window.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Collins: Chair High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan Working Committee

George Crozer: Chair High Halstow Parish Council