

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL
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Clerk: Mrs J Medwell 01536 771232

Local Planning Team
Corby Borough Council
Deene House
New Post Office Square
CORBY
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24 August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to detail the response of Middleton Parish Council (MPC) to Corby Borough Council's 'Part 2 Local Plan for Corby – Emerging Draft Options Consultation'. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to second phase of consultation.

Local outcomes for Corby Borough - Page 16

MPC welcomes the proposed Local Outcomes for Corby Borough on which you are now consulting, especially the commitment to protect the character and identity of the settlements (and heritage assets); to protect settlements from unnecessary expansion into open countryside; to protect and enhance green corridors, biodiversity and open spaces.

We also warmly support the commitment to improve public transport provision to outlying villages to ensure that the countryside is productive and also to improve public transport as a sustainable way to travel. In the later section on transport we note CBC's commitment to policies and measures 'which secure a modal shift from car use to public transport walking and cycling'. We request therefore that this is reflected in Corby BC's support of any initiatives designed to ensure the continuation of public bus services through the rural villages, giving access to Corby and Market Harborough. Residents of rural villages who do not drive, often the elderly, disabled, or those on low incomes, are effectively marooned in their small villages if there is not a regular bus service to our two local market towns.

Transport Page 20

With regard to the section on transport, MPC remains of the view that the limited plans to improve the trunk roads surrounding the proposed West Corby SUE are

insufficient in light of the significant increase in traffic that will be generated by the thousands of homes that are planned on this site. The traffic modelling to date is inadequate in our view and we await further discussions with the developers and the CBC and NCC officers involved with the development, regarding newly available data.

Education and Training - Page 22

We are disappointed by the lack of reference to training infrastructure within this document. If Corby is to thrive as it grows it needs to attract new high tech businesses in areas other than distribution. This will require a workforce with a wide range of skills, some of whom should be trained locally.

Emergency Services Page 26

We welcome the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Services current review of fire cover and standards of operational response and look forward to hearing its conclusions regarding infrastructure needs for the future. As a rural community on the very edge of the County we consider ourselves to be at a higher risk than many of the Borough's residents.

We would also point out that over the last year police resourcing means that there has rarely been a PCSO presence at our Parish Council meetings, which is most regrettable.

Health and wellbeing - Page 27

We were surprised to note that despite the majority of respondents to the Regulation 18 consultation (including NCC and the Corby Clinical Commissioning Group) supporting a locally specific policy on Health and Wellbeing, this draft document rejects that option. Given the very serious health problems within Corby Borough compared with national averages we cannot see sufficient evidence to support the rejection of such a move. The unusually high levels of poor health currently within Corby requires, in our view, a more specific policy than 'core design principles for new developments encouraging healthier lifestyles'.

Telecommunications - Page 30

Rural villages will remain vibrant only if they are able to support residents working from home and developing small businesses within them. High speed broadband is crucial for this endeavour and we would like to see a policy commitment to fibre broadband connection to each household in new build within Corby in future and a programme to connect the rural villages in a five year time frame. We would like to see a commitment of this kind included in Policy 2 on telecommunication.

Green Infrastructure Framework Page 32

Middleton has an ancient orchard which was refurbished and restocked in 2012 by the Parish Council with grant funding, to encourage public access, protect heritage species and provide a haven for wildlife.

We welcome the proposal that locally designated nature conservation sites are included on the policy map and we believe that the Middleton Community Orchard should be included.

We welcome the invitation to local communities to nominate local green spaces for designation against standard criteria and we will apply to have its Community Orchard included in Corby's list of local green spaces.

Bad neighbour uses - Page 47

We have already raised the point that in our view all Sewage Treatment Works (and not just the Corby Works) should be considered 'bad neighbours'. It is therefore requested that Policy 8 be revised with immediate effect to read

...' Sewage Treatment Works are a 'bad neighbour' and proximity to the works and potential smell and associated nuisance.....

Housing Mix - Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people Page 64

We note that there is not an intention to include a policy for the accommodation of gypsies and travellers in the Part 2 Plan. MPC considers it crucial that adequate site provision is made for these groups as otherwise planning permission can be approved after the fact, on sites that are far from ideal. It is noted that 'work has been commissioned to update the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment' and we would like to know what this will entail.

Housing – villages and rural areas – Page 66

We support the decision to identify settlement boundaries on the policies map and would like to see a strong policy position regarding building outside settlement boundaries to avoid coalescence and to retain the distinctive local characteristics of Corby's rural villages.

We strongly support the decision to allocate no further sites for housing development in the rural areas. The recent housing needs survey undertaken by CBC identifies the need for no more than eight new houses in Middleton, some of which should be

shared ownership and all to suit older people or small families. MPC agrees that sufficient sites have been given planning permission to meet the need for market housing in rural areas. We support the policy to allow small scale in-fill in rural villages in keeping with the character of the village but believe that further development is not needed in the rural area. We would also point to the fact that the majority of the West Corby SUE development falls within the Middleton Parish boundary and that this will meet any housing quota required of Middleton Parish, providing a wide range of housing opportunities for any local residents wishing to move and remain within the Parish.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Brant

Chair – Middleton Parish Council

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