

ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL



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Local Plan News – November 2017

Dear Resident

The draft of Ickleford Parish Council's submission to the Local Plan Examination in Public (EiP) is now on our website. This takes the form of the [main document](#) and [supporting information](#) in a number of Appendices. There are two NHDC documents of which we are particularly critical – the [Sustainability Appraisal](#) and [the Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#).

As the Ickleford-specific hearing has been postponed to 27 February 2018, we only need to send these documents to the Inspector in mid-January; we will take the intervening time to refine our submissions based on, for example, the EiP hearings which are taking place now. The final documents will be reviewed and approved at the Parish Council meeting on 4 January 2018, but the Local Plan will also be an agenda item at our 7 December meeting.

There is one significant decision which the Parish Council still has to make; we mentioned previously our belief that the 'windfall' developments at Ickleford Manor and Bowman's Mill – for 90 homes – are better options than any of the four Ickleford sites listed in the Local Plan. Therefore, in our submission to the EiP we may suggest that some of the sites proposed in the Local Plan – IC1 (Duncots), IC2 (Burford Grange), IC3 (Bedford Road) and LS1 (Bedford Road, adjacent to the boundary with Henlow) – should be removed, with the two 'windfalls' taking their place. We will make that decision at the January Parish Council meeting to enable any new information which becomes available to be factored in to our deliberations. This is particularly important because the planning application for 185 homes at LS1 is currently under review by NHDC.

In the meantime, members of the Parish Council and our District Councillor have been attending various sessions of the EiP. One of the most important for us was held on Monday 20 November on the strategic review of the Green Belt – three of the four sites in Ickleford are currently within the Green Belt. You will recall that we have subscribed to the *Save Our Green Belt* campaign, and my perspective is that our barrister did a good job in casting doubt on the approach taken by NHDC to the Green Belt review. Additionally, the Inspector seems to be giving opponents of the Local Plan a very fair opportunity to raise their concerns.

One final point: you might recall that NHDC refused our Freedom of Information request on the extent of their encouragement of the developers of site LS1. We have lodged an appeal against NHDC's decision with the Information Commissioner's Office.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miles Maxwell', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Miles Maxwell
Chairman, Ickleford Parish Council