

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

26 JUNE 2012

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – ITEM 7: WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY

FROM CLLR IAN MCLENNAN, LAVERSTOCK, FORD AND OLD SARUM DIVISION

TO CLLR FLEUR DE RHÉ-PHILLIPE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Question 1

2.7.13 Salisbury

Laverstock & Ford Parish is located in the Southern Wiltshire Area and Core Policy 23 (which replaces SW Policy 9) refers to the Old Sarum Airfield, which is also in Southern Wiltshire.

Can this error be corrected and all the information placed in the Southern Wiltshire section, where it belongs?

Question 2

2.7.13 Salisbury - Old Sarum Airfield

Why do officers choose to ignore the local representatives and say that no new evidence has been produced, when it is clear from Parish Council and Local member submissions that the whole basis for core policy 23 is based on the developer desire to develop and uses an outdated and totally false premise to substantiate the need for the policy?

Question 3

2.7.13 Salisbury -Old Sarum Airfield

The Atkins report which led to the Conservation Area of Old Sarum Airfield, describes the existing, largely unaltered setting and relationship of airstrip, perimeter and buildings much dating back to the beginnings of Military Flying, as the key ingredients of the case for the Conservation Area. Other leading historians support this view.

Why do officers remain blind to this and seek to permit the loss of every single aspect of the council's own case for conservation?

Question 4

2.7.13 Salisbury - Old Sarum Airfield

Officers state there is no new evidence to alter Core Policy 23 and yet are content to use a sound survey from 2000, when entirely different planes fly now, public feedback from a remote area which was based on two residents quoting totally misleading information to residents, including night flying and seem content to permit the loss of every constituent of the conservation area based, according to the council's consultants, on incorrect information and a desire to maximise development.

Why are officers pursuing this path to destruction and council permitting it?

Response

Question 1:

This error can be corrected and will be reflected in the schedule of changes to be submitted to the Inspector alongside the Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document, following approval by Council.

Question 2

All evidence and local representations were presented to the Inspector at the Examination in Public of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. All parties had the right to speak on this issue. The Inspector found the policy and evidence to be sound and the adopted South Wiltshire Core Strategy reflects his recommendations.

There have been no new issues raised within the representations that have not previously been considered by the Inspector for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. As such, there is no evidence to justify a change of position.

Question 3

It is considered that the heritage value of the airfield has been damaged by the intrusion of functional, late 20th century industrial sheds which compromises its historic character. The listing building and conservation area status will help to prevent further erosion of the heritage value.

The policy does not ignore the conservation value of the site. In seeking a long term solution to the problems related to the Airfield, it requires any development to include a master plan for the whole site which delivers a number of criteria including:

- Achieving a long-term proactive strategy for the Conservation area including management plan and some visitor/interpretive material on its historic relevance

- Implementation of new high quality strategic landscape improvements to mitigate impacts of the later, intrusive buildings on the site and to soften impacts both from the Conservation Area and Old Sarum Scheduled Ancient Monument

Question 4

The development of this policy originates with the former Salisbury District Council, with the South Wiltshire Core Strategy as a whole following due process. The Inspector found both evidence and policy sound leading to adoption of the Core Strategy.

There are currently no controls over flying, implementation of the policy will allow a Section 106 agreement which will give the Council some controls over flying in the interest of the amenity of neighbours. There is no plan to curtail the historic use of the airfield in totality

The effective conservation of the historic airfield is at the heart of the policy. This can only be achieved by working constructively with the owners.