



Statement on behalf of Lavington School (03/04/19)

In support of

H1.4 East of Lavington School

Further to the inclusion of H1.4 within the Examination (to be discussed 16th April 2019) this statement has been submitted prior to the close of business on Thursday 11th April. Our position broadly is as follows:

- The Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (WHSAP) should be amended to include (again) H1.4 because it will deliver at least 15 houses before 2022;
- The emerging Market Lavington Neighbourhood Plan (MLNP) already supports this site (H1.4);
- The WHSAP Stage 4 Sustainability Assessment (Atkins) also supports the inclusion of this site in the WHSAP;
- Nevertheless, the WHSAP should not (belatedly) rely on the MLNP to deliver the site before 2026;
- The MLNP will hopefully progress, but it is a complex document;
- Generally, Neighbourhood Plans are prone to becoming snagged and delayed by unforeseen events and information. The MLNP may be 3 or 4 years away from completion – and could delay the delivery of at least 15 much needed houses;
- The reasons why H1.4 was removed, prior to the last Modification Stage, is not justified. It was also unexpected. The School objected at the Proposed Modification stage in November 2018. (See Appendix 1 for ease of reference).
- It is even clearer now (April 2019) that those responsible for the removal of H1.4 from the WHSAP (June -July 2018) promoted – unfairly in our opinion - a fear that too much land was being allocated for housing in the HMA. However, having attended the first day of the Examination (02/04/19) it is clear Wiltshire Council needs to re-instate this housing site – now – so that it will contribute to meeting the minimum housing requirements set out in the Core Strategy (CS).
- The removal of H1.4 from the WHSAP was not based on any clear environmental, social or economic justification in a Sustainability Appraisal, but a last-minute political intervention, without any substantive popular support.
- We are willing to enter into a Statement of Common Ground with Wiltshire Council (draft at Appendix 2).



- The school also wish it to be known that it has explored several different options regarding access to the site, taking advice from highways and traffic consultants.
- A number of solutions remain open, however the preferred option is that:
 - a. The main entrance to the school will be relocated, hence the current access to Lavington School will be an exclusive access to the H1.4 site.
And;
 - b. The new access to the school will need to be built on the southern perimeter of the school site using adopted highway and school land, and allow for a one way system for buses and cars to drop off and pick up children.
- The intention is this new access will benefit the school and village of Market Lavington in two principal ways:
 - a. To remove the significant Health and Safety concerns at present where school buses are forced to turn around in the main school yard where children all congregate before and after school.
 - b. To encourage all school traffic to approach from the West and hence reduce traffic congestion in Market Lavington at rush hour
- As all will be well aware of, national financial pressures on schools resources is significant, and the relocation of the school access is not feasible within the current school budget.
- Hence the developers of the H1.4 site will be funding the access relocation as part of any development plan.

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Appendix



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Appendix