



Dickens Heath Parish Council

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Dear Ms Owen-Roberts

Solihull LDF Independent Examination

Dickens Heath Parish Council would like to make a representation regarding a site proposed for housing development - namely Cleobury Lane, Dickens Heath (ref. Site 20). The reasons for our objection to the inclusion of this site are set out in our response to the Council's Draft Local Plan in March 2012. We understand that the Inspector has already included this matter in the list of Matters and Issues for examination but we would wish to emphasise the following points;

1. No consultation with local residents has taken place on the release of this site. The original schedule of sites published by the Council listed it as unsuitable for development. It was included at a later date by which time comments were limited to matters of legality and soundness of the plan as a whole so the Council's statement of Community Involvement has clearly not been complied with. We therefore believe that the LDF cannot be regarded as sound.
2. This site is within the Green Belt. The Council's own response to the Emerging Core Strategy consultation in March 2011 states '*There are no housing proposals in the green belt in the rural areas*' and '*no green belt alterations are proposed in the urban west*'. No green belt assessment has taken place to justify the selection of this site in accordance with PPG2.
3. The Parish Council's response to the LDF consultation exercise in respect of this site was not reported to the relevant Cabinet Member when he formally approved the officer's recommendations. Indeed, the report on which he based his decision

drew specific attention to two other nearby sites on which we had made minor comments but completely ignored the bulk and substance of our submission relating to Cleobury Lane.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Marczak
Parish Clerk and RFO