

COUNCIL – 18 DECEMBER 2014
NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER PART 4 RULE 1 PARAGRAPH 10
FENLAND LOCAL PLAN

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) affirms a commitment to work within a plan-led system for development, which means that the development plan [The Local Plan] must be the starting point for decision making.

Unfortunately, with the Fenland Local Plan having a windfall terminology that allows up to 249 dwellings in one planning application anywhere in Fenland. This is quite contrary to Planning Law which defines Major Development as "development of 10 dwellings or more". Windfall is usually defined as any development of less than 10 dwellings. This criteria is followed by all other Planning Authorities in the UK. The District Councils current definition of Windfall, of up to 249 dwellings, is therefore not in accordance with Planning Law, undermines the Core Strategy principles and is a serious threat to localism. The notion that Windfall can be up to 249 dwellings is truly bizarre and could not be further away from the notion of a credible plan led approach. For this reason it is an unacceptable terminology.


The District Council current terminology of Windfall, is an unaccountable approach as far as local communities are concerned, for the simple reason, that there is no certainty as to where large scale development will occur, and fundamentally, allows no joined up thinking when it comes to the provision of infrastructure, which has to be provided in an holistic way, and not an ad-hoc piecemeal way.

Turning whether the Local Plan can be amended or reviewed or not, the Council, if it decides to do so, can initiate a full or partial review of its Local Plan at any stage following adoption. This is clearly stated in the NPPF, para153. The Fenland Local Plan no longer reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities with the Current definition of Windfall Development.

The Councils Local Plan is owned by its Members, not its officers who are not accountable to the electorate. Members can therefore initiate a review at any stage to address any major problems, such as currently being experienced by the Windfall issue.

I move that this Council approves a partial review of the Local Plan to address the issue of Windfall Development over the whole of Fenland. And officers bring forward to Council a realistic policy for Windfall Development to be included in the Local Plan.

Signed



PETER A TUNLEY

Date

09/12/14