

Questions Under Procedure Rule 10

The following question has been submitted by Councillor Colin Winder under Procedure Rule 10:-

The SSDC Local Plan 2006/2028 was found to be unsound by the planning inspector in 2010. A principle modification required by the inspector was a revised policy to deal with the front loading in Wincanton of housing. The inspector required a policy to balance the employment and housing provision to be set in place within three years. In 2014 SSDC submitted a revised local plan which proposed a major modification (District Executive agreed proposal attached) to the inspector which was agreed and allowed the local plan to go forward. Since that time no consultation has taken place, no policy has been proposed, and the legal requirement with regards housing has not been complied with. The SSDC local plan would seem to be nullified by the failure of the council to comply with the major modifications agreed by the inspector to make the plan sound. We now have difficult legal problem, as we have an application for 210 dwellings, which are not in the direction of growth set out in the 2015 local plan, and which are in an area specifically excluded for development in the Wincanton Neighbourhood Plan (a plan which was extensively consulted on with the residents, and was approved with a public vote), Where do the residents of Wincanton stand in this planning problem, when they have set out their clear wishes and intentions, but could be frustrated by the failure of SSDC to carry out the legal provisions they had agreed with the inspector. This raises a number of legal question which have to be resolved now.

With a deficiency of housing numbers in SSDC how do the council propose to defend the approved housing levels in Wincanton against the developers use of district wide figures?

With the slow decline in local businesses how do you propose to provide economic growth in Wincanton as opposed to the investment in economic ventures outside the district?

With the huge deficit in jobs in relation to housing resulting in over 59% of the working population working outside the town and travelling by car. Can you justify further housing with the resultant carbon deposit of 3.5 tonnes per week deposited on the roads of the district?

Can you give the residents of Wincanton an assurance that you will rectify your failure to set in place a policy on the housing and employment balance within twelve months?