

Statement from Mr Roger Clews, the inspector examining the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

Land adjacent to the Village Hall, Bransford Road, Rushwick

1. My attention has been drawn to a Public Consultation Newsletter issued by Greenlight Developments Ltd, concerning proposed housing development on the above site. The leaflet contains the sentence "In keeping with the Planning Inspector's assessment of the South Worcestershire Development Plan [SWDP], Malvern Hills needs to accommodate more houses".
2. It appears that this may have led some people to assume that the South Worcestershire Councils are proposing to allocate the site for development in the SWDP. This is not the case.
3. I understand that a planning application for development at the site has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council [MHDC] – Council reference 15/00504. The decision on that planning application will be taken by MHDC. It is not something for me to decide through the SWDP examination process. Anyone seeking further information on the planning application should contact MHDC.
4. Greenlight Developments did make representations on the Proposed Modifications to the SWDP at public consultation stage. Their representation on Proposed Modification PM224 stated that the different housing site off Bransford Road, which the South Worcestershire Councils are proposing for allocation in the SWDP, should be replaced by the site adjacent to the village hall.
5. As they have a duly-made representation on the SWDP, Greenlight's representatives are entitled to take part in the examination hearing session where PM224 will be discussed – that is, Matter X2 on Wednesday 3 June. Guidance on how "omission sites", such as the land adjacent to the village hall, will be dealt with at the hearing sessions is given in the Inspector's Guidance Note, paragraphs 13 & 14 [http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/SWDP\\_Stage\\_2\\_Inspectors\\_Guidance\\_Note-Final1.pdf](http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/SWDP_Stage_2_Inspectors_Guidance_Note-Final1.pdf)
6. The hearing sessions are open to the public to attend and listen, but only those who made representations on the SWDP and the Proposed Modifications at public consultation stage may take part in the discussion. It is the Council's role to explain why the sites they are proposing for allocation in the SWDP are the most suitable.

7. Following the hearing sessions, any changes that I may consider recommending to the site allocations in the SWDP will be the subject of full, formal public consultation before my report and recommendations are finalised.

Roger Clews, 24 April 2015