

**Additional Comments of the Independent Examiner –
Invitation to submit further representations on the
implications of the Joint Local Plan Inspectors’ letter dated
10th January 2020.**

Prepared by

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13TH February 2020

1. As you will be aware, I have been appointed to carry out the examination of the Newport Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan.
2. I am grateful for the responses from the Parish Council and also from Uttlesford District Council to my last Further Note document.
3. This neighbourhood plan examination has been carried out in parallel with the examination of the draft Uttlesford Local Plan.
4. On 10th January 2020, the joint Local Plan Inspectors issued a letter to Uttlesford District Council, following the Stage 1 Hearings, which expressed significant concerns regarding the soundness of the draft local plan and whilst the joint Inspectors have not issued a final decision, they have indicated that the withdrawal of the plan from examination is likely to be the most appropriate option. A copy of the letter is available on the District Council Local Plan Examination website.
5. The District Council has not yet made a formal decision as to how it intends to respond to the Inspectors' letter and I understand it is unlikely that it will be in a position to do so until late March. In the meantime, I do not propose to hold my examination in abeyance indefinitely, or until there is clarity as to the way the new Local Plan will be progressed.
6. Whilst one of the basic condition tests against which I must consider this neighbourhood plan relates to the general conformity with the strategic policies in the **adopted** local plan, it is clear that the provisions of the emerging local plan had underlain much of the neighbourhood plan approach and will be material to my consideration of at least one other basic condition test.
7. In view of this important development in the emerging strategic planning context to the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan, I would like to offer the opportunity to the principal parties, specifically the District Council, the Qualifying Body and the organisations and persons who sent in comments at the Regulation 16 stage, to be able to submit any further representations if they so wish, as to what they believe are implications of the Inspectors' letter for the Neighbourhood Plan.
8. I am sending this note direct to Uttlesford District Council and the two Parish Councils and the Steering Group and I request that the Planning Department forward this note to the Regulation 16 parties.
9. I would ask that any responses to this invitation to submit further representations on this issue, be submitted to me, via the District Council by 5pm on Monday 16th March 2020.
10. I also request that a copy of this note be placed on the respective websites along with the responses which are received.

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Independent Examiner to the Newport Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan.