

THE EXAMINATION OF THE AYLESBURY AREA ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

FEEDBACK FROM HEARING PARTICIPANTS

At the close of the Hearing sessions there was an opportunity for participants to make informal comments on how the process had seemed to them and I undertook to summarise these views at the conclusion of the examination.

Observation	Inspector's Comment
<p>Ms Seymour for the Council's team explained that it was the first AAP that they had had to tackle and that they had found it considerably easier to deal with than the previous UDP system</p>	
<p>Mr Lee thought that the overall time allowed for the sessions had been a bit short considering the significance of the development that was under consideration. Whilst he appreciated the need for the Inspector to narrow the range of issues to be discussed at the hearings, it was a rare opportunity for third parties to be heard. This was one reason why the discussion had gone off at a tangent from time to time.</p>	<p><i>On reflection I agree that it would have been better to spread the hearing sessions out over 3 days, reducing the individual settings to a more manageable length. However, I do not consider that any party was disadvantaged by the timetable.</i></p>
<p>Mr Lee also commented on the good relationship he and other representors had had with the Council's planners and noted that the Policy Team were always helpful. There had been occasional difficulty in accessing the examination library. It was accepted that this had been due to an enforced move of premises but participants should be able to rely on accessing the library</p>	<p><i>I have no doubt that the Council will give the location of the library due consideration in future examinations.</i></p>
<p>Mr Lee wondered whether it would be possible to arrange an introduction or training sessions for representors and suggested that this might help to reduce sitting times. Mr Corbyn agreed that some people would be put off by the idea of appearing before an Inspector</p>	<p><i>The sessions were arranged on an informal a basis as possible, consistent with the need to meet specified timetables. The Inspectorate's published guidance on participation is a helpful starting point for all participants.</i></p>

<p>Mr Flynn thought that it had been difficult to keep track of the progress of the consultations and had been surprised that more people had not attended the sessions. He suggested that an evening session might have been helpful</p>	<p><i>No request for evening sessions was made at the pre-hearing meeting and, given that the hearing period was comparatively short, such sessions would have been difficult to arrange. They should not, however, be ruled out for subsequent DPD hearings.</i></p>
<p>Ms Fudge expressed some concern about the way in which the proposals had been publicised at the exhibitions and thought it had been hard for residents to hear viewpoints other than those of the Council</p>	<p><i>All such exercises involve an element of compromise but in this case I was satisfied that the Council had achieved a good balance.</i></p>
<p>Ms Dada considered that the Council's Delivery Team found the process helpful as it forced them to think about implementation. The Council recognised that it will need to manage a cross-departmental approach to implementation</p>	
<p>Mr Smith for the Council was of the view that it was useful that the AAP effectively merged a business planning process with a land use plan. He considered that the AAP would be vital to the PFI process</p>	

B J Juniper

INSPECTOR