

Barnt Green Parish Council

Paul MacLachlan, Executive Officer, 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, B45 8NF

12 May 2014

Helen Wilson
Programme Officer
Bromsgrove District Plan Examination

By email to progofficer@aol.com

Dear Helen

Thank you for drawing the Parish Council's attention to the 12 May deadline for the submission of comments on the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions paper.

You will be aware of our concern that Barnt Green, with a population 1,794 (2011 census), has been identified as a large settlement and that Bromsgrove District Council, when asked, were unable to define the boundary of the Barnt Green settlement area identified by the District Plan.

The Parish Council hopes that responses to the questions at B1.2 will enable the Inspector to establish:

- (i) why the Plan identifies settlement areas with no boundaries;
- (ii) why the Barnt Green settlement area does not correspond with the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Development Plan area;
- (iii) whether the scoring criteria used by the District Council in identifying Barnt Green as a large settlement is appropriate and takes accurate account of the extent to which those living outside the parish boundary use the facilities in Barnt Green.

We believe question (ii) is significant because the District Council has already agreed that the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Development area is defined by the parish boundary.

We believe question (iii) is significant because, for the reasons indicated in our response to the District Plan, we feel that the District Council have misunderstood the extent to which those living outside the parish boundary use the facilities in Barnt Green.

A further 88 dwelling are due to be built within the parish boundary during 2014/15. The Parish Council hopes that responses to question B5.1 will enable the Inspector to establish the extent to which the limited infrastructure in Barnt Green can cope with demands beyond that already existing or approved and whether it has the capacity to be regarded as a 'large settlement'.

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Although you do not seek answers to the questions posed in the MIQ document we feel that it would be very helpful to set housing targets for specific towns and villages (question B1.2). To illustrate, the Parish Council feels disadvantaged in that it is endeavouring to work towards the conclusion of the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Development Plan without any knowledge of the housing numbers needing to be built within, and around, its boundary and the resulting implications for our community infrastructure.

In light of the above, the Parish Council would welcome your guidance as to whether the Parish Council should seek a hearing in June. If not, please note that the Parish Council will hope to receive an invitation to address these issues later in the process.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Paul MacLachlan
Executive Officer