Local Plan Part 2 Consultation

10th November 2018

Dear Sirs/ Madam,

The amended proposal to the confines of Blakesley village still includes the recreational facilities and Village Hall. However, the village’s main complaint last year was in regards to the exclusion of the tennis courts, play area and Village Hall within the confines. This exclusion was the main thrust of the petition, that had over 150 signatures, and of the many letters sent in to the council in late 2017. This viewpoint was endorsed in writing by the Blakesley Parish Council. We had hoped this would ensure all recreational facilities were excluded.

The Village Hall, tennis courts and play area are integral locations used daily by local residents as well as by the local schools, Blakesley Primary School and Blakesley Preschool. We see no reason to include them in the village confines. We need to protect these areas for the benefit of our residents and visitors to our village.

Furthermore, the document entitled South Northamptonshire Council’s Local Plan Part 2a states:

“Other developments that would be allowed in the countryside or have been allowed under countryside policies in the past are considered to relate more to the countryside than to the settlement and will therefore be excluded where they lie adjacent to the boundary. This category includes […] extensive community facilities such as hard surfaced sports grounds (including pavilions) and car parks, where they have been built outside existing settlement boundaries.

This guidance suggests that the Blakesley tennis courts and play area would indeed be excluded from inclusion in the new village confines.

Lastly, we pointed out in our 2017 petition that Blakesley is an award-winning village in part because of these areas and the magnificent views enjoyed from such facilities and tennis courts. Surely, these areas should be protected from inclusion in the confines and not subject to further development debate.

We would like to understand why the inclusion of the Village Hall, tennis courts and play areas within the village confines is being proposed again. This proposed change is unnecessary.

Please modify the proposed boundary line to omit these areas from the village confines. This would then remove all the concerns voiced by villagers in the original petition and Blakesley Parish Council.

Regards

David Conway