

Matter 2 Vision, Objectives, Sustainable Development – Cllr David Snartt.

After having sight of the Open Consultation, Reforms to National Planning Policy, published 22nd December 2022. It is important to make the following observations. In my view, the development strategy within the Charnwood Local Plan is more than ever out of step with the direction of travel with up-to-date National thinking.

I note this states ‘Deliver more homes in the right places, supported by sustainable and integrated infrastructure for our communities and our economy. Planning for houses is not just about numbers, it is about getting the type and quality of homes that communities need in the right places and supported by the right infrastructure and supporting our wider economic objectives, like levelling up, fuelling urban regeneration, and redeveloping brownfield land’.

Firstly, it is recognised that the Charnwood Local Plan proposes housing allocation sites that are on greenfield sites totalling 69.6%, brownfield 30.4%, with the proposed allocation dwellings on greenfield sites 87.5% brownfield 12.5%. In my view, does not indicate that this is in line with the direction of travel, moving away from greenfield sites to brownfield and regenerating urban areas within Charnwood.

Two other areas of concern I would like to demonstrate.

The number of proposed allocation of dwellings in Service Centres, again the majority on greenfield sites. I refer to the proposal to accommodate the sites within the Service Centre of Anstey. This village has already seen a total of over 660 extra new build dwellings during the current Local Plan. Currently there are planning applications for a further one thousand dwellings. There are already significant infrastructure issues, including the vehicle capacity on the village roads and surrounding area, this has already been acknowledged as severe levels of vehicles travelling through the centre of the village. This proposal to accommodate the proposed dwellings within the Local Plan would be devastating for the village with the loss of more greenfield sites and seeing more vehicles on the village roads, noting that residents would have to travel for employment to other locations making the sites unsustainable.

The proposal, HA 15 which is close to the hamlet of Woodthorpe and encroaches into the Parish of Woodhouse is again on a greenfield site. I note the criteria set out in a topic paper stating exclude sites which would result in the loss of more

than 20ha of Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land. In my opinion, there are other sites that have been excluded with only Grade 3 agricultural land and would not have the impact of this large development on the hamlet of Woodthorpe and the Parish of Woodhouse.