

Date: 29 November 2022
Your Ref: JS/FTC/CANTLP
Our Ref:
Ask for: Peter Davies
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By email

Councillor Adrian McCarthy
Chairman
Fordwich Town Council

Dear Cllr McCarthy

Meeting with Fordwich Town Council regarding the draft Local Plan

Thank you for your email which alerted us to the letter sent to us on behalf of the town council by James Smith (Planning Law Services Ltd) on Thursday 24 November which, rather unfortunately, arrived in our spam folders rather than our inboxes and explains why a number of us did not acknowledge receipt as requested.

Our intention was to meet with you and the members of your town council to discuss your questions and concerns about the draft Canterbury District Local Plan To 2045 as part of the consultation and engagement process under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. We are, after all, in listening mode.

However, your decision to instruct lawyers and adopt a rather more legalistic approach makes a free flowing discussion and debate much more difficult.

I cannot imagine that was your intention but that is the effect.

In light of the request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, it is with a great deal of regret that we will not be attending tomorrow night's meeting.

We would look to rearrange once we have replied formally to the EIR request as that is the basis on which you wish to hold our discussion.

Some of the questions raised would be for the county council, as the transport and highways authority, to answer. As such we have forwarded the email and letter to the highways department who would be able to answer the non-enforcement questions as set out in part 2 of the letter.

We recognise this is a busy time of year so if we do not manage to meet before the 12-week Regulation 18 consultation closes, we will be happy to extend the deadline for your response for a reasonable period after Monday 16 January 2023 and feed that into the decision-making process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PD', followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

Plan

Peter Davies
Director of Strategy and Improvement
Canterbury City Council

cc:
Leo Whitlock, Head of Policy and Communications
Cllr Louise Harvey-Quirke
Cllr Georgina Glover