

## **LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2024**

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION**

#### **Question from Mr P Philips**

#### **Proposed inclusion in Local Plan of West Whitwick Valley C47/C77/C78/C81/C86 for housing development.**

‘Officers and Members will now be well aware of a growing feeling among the community that public consultation was inadequate in the case of West Whitwick Valley being included for housing development in the proposed local plan. This is evidenced by the fact that the majority of those most effected by this inclusion had no knowledge of either the proposal or the consultation until after the consultation closing date. It is noted that in the past consultations have been sent to individual households for far less significant development proposals. In the interest of fairness, transparency and reasonableness, all of which the Council is clearly signed up to delivering, is it agreed that a second public consultation is appropriate in this case, ensuring those most effected are properly and clearly notified?’

#### **Response from the Chair of the LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE**

‘In preparing a Local Plan there is no requirement unlike with planning applications, to consult with individual households in the vicinity of any proposed development site. The approach to the consultation was consistent with the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement.

The decision to consult on the draft Local Plan was made at the Council’s Local Plan Committee on 17 January 2024. This is a public meeting which was also streamed live. The report to the 17 January meeting specifically noted that the contents of the draft plan would be consulted upon for a six-week period, which subsequently took place between 5 February 2024 and 17 March 2024

Information about the consultation, including what was proposed, was on the Council’s website, together with details of the consultation period and how to respond, as well as where public drop-in sessions were taking place. One such drop-in sessions was for the wider Coalville area at the New Life Church in Margaret Street Coalville on 12 February 2024. In addition, messages were also put out via social media and the local press. The Council also consulted directly with all Parish Councils.

As can be seen from Table 1 of item 5, the number of responses to the proposed West of Whitwick Broad location was only bettered by that in respect of the proposed new settlement. This would suggest, therefore, that people were aware of the draft plan.’