

COUNCIL – 8 NOVEMBER 2016

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR R JOHNSON TO COUNCILLOR T J PENDLETON

Could I ask the Portfolio holder Councillor Trevor Pendleton to explain to me and the community I represent why the mention of Hugglescote crossroads is still in the Local Plan 2016?

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR T J PENDLETON

It is the case that you have asked the same question of me before, and I am content to provide you with the same thorough, referenced and reasoned answer, once again.

Policy IF4 (e) of the draft Local Plan published in September 2014 for consultation identified that, amongst other road schemes, improvements would be sought to the Hugglescote Crossroads.

At the time that the draft Local Plan was published for consultation, Leicestershire County Council was in the process of considering the responses received to the consultation they had carried out in November 2014 on options for improvements at the Hugglescote Crossroads. At a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet on 18 November 2015 it was decided to not pursue any of the various options put forward as part of their consultation.

In view of this fact, and in response to comments received to the consultation on the draft Local Plan, it was reported to the Council's Local Plan Advisory Committee of 18 April 2016 that officer's view was that it was "proposed to delete reference to the Hugglescote Crossroads in Policy IF4 (e)". Therefore, when the latest version of the Local Plan was presented to Council at its meeting of 28 June 2016 policy IF4 no longer included this reference.

It will be appreciated that the above demonstrates that the District Council was aware of the decision of the County Council in respect of the Hugglescote Crossroads and took this in to account when preparing the publication version of the Local Plan.

Whilst Policy IF4 does not include reference to improvements at the Hugglescote Crossroads the supporting text (paragraph 9.25) does state that:

"A number of key highway improvement schemes have been identified (through the LTP3 and work in preparing this local plan) which both impact on and are impacted by new development, particularly in the Coalville urban Area and Ashby de la Zouch. These include Junction 22 of the M1 and junction 13 of the A42 as well junctions along the A511 corridor between these two junctions. In addition, it is recognised that the Hugglescote crossroads requires improvements."

This is supporting text to Policy IF4 and does not form part of the policy, but is intended to provide context. As such the text is accurate as the need for improvements at the Hugglescote Crossroads is recognised. This is reflected in the report to the County Council Cabinet of 18 November 2015 when it was agreed not to pursue any of the options which had been subject to consultation. For example, at paragraph 21 of the Cabinet report it states that "Previous work has shown that improvements to Hugglescote Crossroads and

other junctions within the wider Coalville area, including at various junctions along the A511 Stephenson Way, are required to accommodate future housing and employment growth”.

Paragraph 22 goes on to say that “Transport modelling of existing conditions shows that queues and delays at the Crossroads will reach severe levels by 2031 if no improvements are carried out”.

It is clearly the case that the crossroads requires improvements. It is also the case that Leicestershire County Council has resolved not to pursue any of its identified options. However, it is appropriate for the Local Plan to identify it as an issue and to refer to it in the supporting text.