

Mr David J Austin
Norfolk House
High Street
Abbots Bromley
Staffordshire
England
WS15 3BN

My Ref: MP-AB01

Date: 6 October 2017

Dear Mr Austin

Re: Abbots Bromley Village Green – Crown Bank Conservation Area

I am writing with regard to your letter dated 1 October 2017 addressed to Cllr Philip Atkins OBE.

Following a briefing from myself as the responsible Officer, Cllr Atkins advised me to provide an explanation to the points that you raise in your letter.

I have contacted the Chair of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group (the Working Group), who has agreed to collate this response with others to ensure all of your queries are picked up by the relevant organisation.

Your letter refers to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan (the emerging Plan), and Staffordshire County Council is very supportive of this new planning tool to give communities the ability to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

Your points about the Conservation Area, parking and amenity are noted by our officers and we will be diligent to ensure they are properly reflected in the consultation response summary that will be co-ordinated by the Working Group.

Likewise, I am confident that the Working Group will properly represent the community feedback from the exhibition day with appropriate caveats and explanatory notes that make it clear they were not drawn exclusively from just the immediate Parish/Neighbourhood Plan administrative area(s).

Within the Borough of East Staffordshire, we have seen a number of Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunners supported by Central Government, and we are all still learning together on how best to use these new tools. The emerging Plan for Abbots Bromley allows us to continue refining the approach to how Staffordshire County Council can best support the communities that engage positively with such activities.



Within this context, the plans and drawings prepared by Staffordshire County Council for the purpose of the consultation was to facilitate a community discussion and debate. The drawings provide something tangible to consider based on balancing high level design concept with the appropriate highway considerations. We have found elsewhere that important issues are sometimes overlooked and Staffordshire County Council felt it appropriate to engage at this early stage so we can also influence and shape the emerging Plan.

Should the Working Group commission any future specific or detailed public realm improvement design schemes within the village for consideration, then the feedback from yourself, the signatories to your letter and from other stakeholders will prove invaluable in helping to frame the relevant Plan policy or project brief design parameters.

I hope that you will continue to engage in the preparation of further iterations of the emerging Plan and utilise the neighbourhood planning process as a positive mechanism to help shape the future aspirations of the community.

I hope to attend future Neighbourhood Plan public meeting as the emerging Plan progresses through to adoption, so please do introduce yourself to me as appropriate so I can continue to receive your feedback and ensure it features in the decision making. Likewise the Community Partnerships Officer, Graham Hunt is readily contactable at: graham.hunt@staffordshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

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Mark Parkinson
Economic Development and Planning Policy Manager

cc

Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer, Staffordshire County Council
Bryn Walters, Chair of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE, Leader and Division Member for Uttoxeter Rural, Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Greg Hall, Borough Councillor for Bagots Ward and Deputy Leader for Regulatory services,
East Staffordshire Borough Council