

PPWG Meeting - 10th January, 2019
Comments on behalf of Great Chesterford Parish Council

Since early 2016 Great Chesterford Parish Council has engaged extensively with UDC regarding possible selection of the NUGC site: apart from numerous appearances at PPWG and elsewhere:

- in April 2016 the Parish Council provided detailed written criticisms of UDC's preliminary assessment of the site put forward in response to the Call for Sites - to which no response of any kind was received, despite reminders;

- in August 2017 a detailed response to the Regulation 18 Local Plan was submitted, including external Consultants' reports relating to transport, heritage and location - again to which no substantive response was received;

- in September 2018 a very detailed response to the Regulation 19 Plan was submitted, which included updated Consultants' reports on the issues previously provided: once more, no substantive response of any kind has been received - save disclosure, in late November 2018, of AECOM's heavy criticism of the SA report that accompanied the proposals. This has now been followed by publication, just before Christmas, of AECOM's rewrite of the SA previously written-off as "non-compliant" and defective.

My Council will in due course be submitting a detailed response to AECOM's doomed attempt to save UDC's SA by seeking to "cure" the numerous failings of its flawed predecessor. Suffice it to say that you can rearrange the order of words as much as you like, but you cannot alter the facts - including the chaotic manner in which NUGC came forward for serious consideration only in January 2017, and the reverse engineering employed to justify that selection.

In the event that UDC submits its Local Plan to the Planning Inspector as proposed, it will be for UDC, and UDC alone, to satisfy the Inspector at the Inquiry that the Plan is sound; my Council intends to play a full part in objecting to the proposal as regards NUGC for the many reasons previously detailed.

Regarding preparation of UDC's Development Plan Document - Great Chesterford set out as long ago as January 2018 its detailed Red Lines regarding NUGC in the event that it is permitted to proceed, and UDC, Officers and Grosvenor are well aware of its concerns. Going forward, pending and subject to the outcome of the Inquiry, the Parish Council remains ready to review proposals submitted to meet these objections.