

Response to the UDC Local Plan - Decision following the Inspectors' Letter by Cllr Evans and Stephen Miles

Edward Gildea Green Party member and leader of St Mary's Eco team.

I wholeheartedly applaud the recommendation to withdraw the Local Plan.

I am pleased to see that in para 2b the council's commitment is to sustainable growth, sustainable transport and the protection of air quality, bio-diversity and water resources.

However I am surprised to see the reference to achieving the Government's aim to achieve net zero carbon by 2050, rather than **by 2030, in line with the UDC's own Climate emergency declaration and more ambitious net zero target**. I ask for this to be amended.

I applaud 2d, the recommendation to effectively engage residents, business groups and town/parish councils. Please also include environmental and other relevant interest groups.

I applaud the commitment in 2f to holistic planning of new developments. I would like 'clean, sustainable and health promoting transport' to be explicitly included within the phrase 'necessary physical and social infrastructure'.

The phrase 'high quality and affordable' housing is also too vague and open to slack interpretation. It should explicitly include the principle of zero carbon or Passiv haus standards in *all* housing, in anticipation of the government's long postponed paper, the Future Homes Standard.

I would urge you to include as a background paper for future reference the Chartered Institute for Highways and Transport (CIHT) report of 2019 'Better planning, better transport, better places'. This includes 3 seminal arguments that the UDC might consider adopting as guiding principles:

1. That planning system should '**shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions**' and take 'a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change'
2. That **transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making** and development proposals.
3. **That the process of selecting sites for development should *not* be driven by developers or land owners**; it should be driven by the vision and principles of local authority.

I applaud para 22 on Addressing Climate Change. It is now an overwhelming priority.

A Local Plan needs to start with clear vision and strong principles. If the existing Local Plan falls short of these, then now is the time to reject it and establish the vision and principles upon which a new plan can be based.