



Cornard Tye Residents Association

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Babergh Core Strategy Examination

Babergh District Council, before compiling its core Strategy, received an initial proposal for a land based Dry Dock Terminal for container shipping and another proposal for a New Town. These developments could apparently be synergistic could have produced 7 thousand jobs and provided most of the district's housing allocation. These proposals were briefly drawn to the attention of councillors and then dismissed as unwanted and not in accord with the Regional Strategy. On being questioned for more detail, officers said that was basically all the information that was given (this seems unlikely). Also there was not enough time to investigate without delaying the Development Framework document process and that no mention of New Towns in the Regional Strategy meant that such developments were not approved (a bogus argument). Officers could then say that the proposals were discussed and rejected by the council, thus covering their backs.

Mr Nick Boles the planning minister under Mr Pickles has recently specifically mentioned New Towns as a means of providing the urgent and necessary housing.

The initial Development Framework consultation took place in the spring of 2009. This initial consultation should have been restarted when Mr Pickles announced that Regional targets were to be abolished and a new bottom up approach would take its place. Instead much of the old regional strategy was retained with the excuse that it was supposedly evidence based and as good as any other figure, therefore the old targets should be used as a basis.

The bottom up consultation, (which should have prevailed when it was announced that the regional strategy was to be revoked), asked for housing to be directly related to new jobs, no development in the SUDBURY area until the road infrastructure was dramatically improved, and villages should be allowed to grow organically rather than concentrating development as add-ons to town and key village boundaries.

As the Ipswich fringe area was best placed for new jobs and the modes of communication were significantly better than any other area, it is this general location where new development should have been concentrated. It is in this general area where the Dry dock Terminal and New Town are likely to have been located.

A complete reappraisal should now be undertaken to investigate the two proposals and the spatial strategy should be re-consulted and redrawn.

None of the 440 applications on the Housing Register for Chilton Parish near Sudbury had a local connection. These applications are made where development is in progress or has been proposed. Obviously it would be useless to put your name down where your family is based if no development is being approved in that village, so housing registers in areas of high development are inflated out of all proportion. There are about 1,000 houses proposed for Chilton and there is no way 1,000 jobs will be provided in the area. This will add to out-commuting, pollution, congestion, inefficient use of time and the frustration of commuters.

Failure to anticipate the Order to revoke the Regional Strategy coming into force and ignoring much of local wishes has produced a flawed Development Framework Document. Building houses where they are not wanted or needed, leads to soulless dormitory estates which do not benefit the local communities.

The revocation of Regional Strategies should have led to a much changed and better plan, not a cobbled together adaption of the old strategies.

Yours sincerely

Michael Evans Chairman