

## 2024-25 Item 42b

### PLANNING WORKING PARTY REPORT

18<sup>th</sup> September 2024



This report is issued for the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September covers activities since the Parish Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

1. On 30<sup>th</sup> July the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government released a statement concerning the new Government's intentions in relation to housing development. At the same time a draft of a revised National Planning Policy Framework was published. Their release was linked to the launch of a consultation through which interested parties were given then opportunity to comment on these new documents. CHPC decided, under permitted delegated authority, to respond to the consultation. Much of the preparatory work associated with this was carried out by the Neighbouring Planning Officer (NPO) who also prepared a first draft of the response; the response was refined through consultation with other members of the group. As the deadline for submissions in response to the consultation was 24<sup>th</sup> September i.e. before the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, it was not possible for Councillors to view the response before submission; it is, however, available on request to the Clerk.

2. Following the Ministerial Statement and the publication of the draft NPPF, the parties involved in the suspended inquiry into the Tarmac appeal were invited by the Planning Inspector to comment on the relevance of these documents to the Inquiry. Members of the working group, including the NPO, prepared a response for submission by the requested date of 23<sup>rd</sup> September, this again being ahead of the next Parish Council meeting. This response is available for viewing on request to the Clerk.

The Tarmac inquiry will resume on 29<sup>th</sup> October and the working group will be preparing for, and participating in, this event.

3. The Inquiry into the proposal for permission for the quarry at Ellenbrook Fields will commence on 19<sup>th</sup> November and could last for up to 3 weeks; documents are due for submission by 21<sup>st</sup> October. A Case Management Conference was scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> September.

CHPC is one of the Rule 6 parties, together with Smallford Residents Association, Ellenbrook Residents Association and Hatfield Town Council. A great deal of effort has been put into preparing for this Inquiry, especially by the NPO and the Chair of CHPC, the latter acting primarily on behalf of the Smallford Residents Association

4. The working group has also been receiving and, where necessary, commenting on planning applications received by SADC.
5. In addition to the two inquiries referred to above, the working group expect to review and comment on the next stage of SADC's Local Plan and possibly also a revised Hertsmere Local Plan.