

Response to Inspector's further MIQs to the Local Plan February 2020

I refer to your letter dated 14th February 2020 which I unfortunately did not receive until 18th and having been out all day did not open until 19th. However, I would like to respond as follows.

Matter 23 the Green Belt Review Work and the Site Selection Process

A recent BBC television Countryfile report by reporter Tom Heap, which I watched with interest, examined the subject of the sale of publicly owned land currently tenanted to farmers, some of it to the same family through the generations. Since the end of WW1 when such publicly owned farms were first set up. It was reported that the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) are trying to stop, or at least severely restrict, further sales of such land and one country, Dorset, is actually trying to reverse it by providing more land. Only in this way it was said can younger generations of young farmers ever hope to run their own farm.

This situation is very much relevant to Local Plan Developments in Baldock and neighbouring parishes where several such farmsteads were set up in 1919 with housing accommodation also provided on land owned by Hertfordshire county Council for the sole benefit of those returning home from the conflict. Some have remained in the same family for 100 years since then. One I know of, having just graduated from Agricultural College had hoped to farm the land off Bygrave Road (BA1) had hoped to farm the land currently tended by his father and before that his grandfather and I believe before that his great-grandfather. With most of such land in the Green Belt in and around Baldock being taken away for development young budding farmers in this area will have no ability to run their own farm on what is prime agricultural land.

My question is therefore to ask whether this has been taken into consideration, as promoted by CPRE to justify taking such a large area of prime agricultural land located in the Green Belt.

Matter 25 New Land Proposed for Allocation through the Main Modifications

It is noted that there are proposed extensions to area BA2 – south eastwards, and BA3 – north eastwards and amending the boundaries of sites BA3 and BA4. I ask how this will affect the proposed road linking Wallington Road with the B656 and where will this road lead to? Can it be that it will just push more traffic that has traversed the proposed northern link road into the centre of Baldock where traffic issues are already becoming intolerable? Some of the traffic will wish to use the A505 or the A507 but much of it travels into and through Baldock in considerable volume to gain access to Letchworth Garden City with all its employment and national retail outlets that are still being developed. Naturally drivers will still take what is the shortest route to where they wish to go rather than a detour on the A505 bypass to enter Letchworth Garden City from that side on roads already much congested in that town. The only direct east west link from the proposed northern bypass to the industrial area and retail outlets in Letchworth Garden City, remains through the centre of Baldock.

From your letter I am a little confused by the options and deadline dates and this submission may be too late, but I hope you will consider it and if appropriate I would be willing to participate in the further hearings if what I have set out above is considered relevant.

My name is Michael Geoffrey Camp and not Michael GEORGE Camp!

Yours sincerely

Michael G Camp