

Representation to BDC Local Plan Examination, starting 6th July 2021

As a Braintree District Councillor, 2003-2019, representing Kelvedon & Feering, I wish to make representation to **two items** specifically, although they are intertwined. My comments relate to the amec foster wheeler (AMW) response, on behalf of The Crown Estate (CE), dated 27 July 2017, using para & page numbers from that document, and will also note the discussions that I attended with Crown Estates representatives and BDC Planners in advance of the 2017 Local Plan meeting which legal council advised me not to attend!

I am aware that there have been many changes since this document was submitted, and in most other areas of the BDC Local Plan, the references to Garden Communities have been removed.

My main concerns relate to the Strategic Growth Location in Feering; the infrastructure that connects to Tiptree and the potential impact on Kelvedon, as the other end of this (two-village) combined Growth Location.

In relation to Main Matter 7, LPP 22, Land at Feering

Ref: AMW P2, para 2, SP5

It would be useful to understand the CE sequence & any possible financing of the new link road connecting A12 & Inworth Road, which recent meetings (Jan-Mar 2021) have shown to connect across fields to the South of the current A12 alignment, to join a new, all-ways, A12 junction. This will anyway benefit both the strategic growth location and Tiptree by significantly improving network resilience.

The above also relates to AMW P9, para 4, LPP48

It should be noted that the original CE masterplan suggested a spine road parallel to the North side of the current A12, linking Inworth Road with the first part of the development, South of the Threshelfords business Park. It is expected that this will be re-routed in line with the A12 plans, so as to not overburden the Gore Pit Corner junction with new development traffic attempting to go to Tiptree, or join the A12 in either direction?

Ref: AMW P9, para 5 LPP77

Policy LPP77 was regarded by some as forward-thinking when I proposed it, as Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, in 2016-17 but it must surely now be essential if developers are to have any hope of meeting sustainable targets. The CE proposal to delete the policy is not showing their credentials in the best light when the climate is in such peril. The NPPF may support developers who wish to excuse themselves of honourable development, with the current building example of Bloor Homes showing how immoral they can be, when it comes to renewable energy, making viability excuses solely to enhance their profits.

Should developers build to BREAM excellent standards, it would of course, reduce the 20% proposed, since the energy requirements would be almost negligible. The opportunities for realistic & affordable renewable installations are increasing by the week, and could include solar, thermal or power; heat pumps; solar storage; community heating etc. It would be disappointing to lose an initiative that was seen by some as un-necessary in 2016, yet is critical to the future of our planet, and should provide opportunities to build sustainable showcase developments.

Robert Mitchell

14/6/21