

Statement from Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council relating to the Matters and Issues identified by the Inspector.**Represented by Councillor Ray Bullen Dipl. Arch RIBA.****Matter 7c – Proposed housing site allocations, safeguarded land and direction for growth
- Edge of Coventry****Issue**

Whether the proposed housing site allocations, safeguarded land and direction for growth on the edge of Coventry are justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Policies DS11, DS15, DS NEW1 and DS NEW2**Questions**

Taking each of the following proposed housing site allocations individually:

- H08 – Oaklea Farm, Finham
- H42 – Westwood Heath
- H43 – Kings Hill Lane

This is a welcome part of the MDLP as explained extensively so far.

H08 – Oaklea Farm, Finham is a small development of 20 homes and has been in the DLP for a long time. The Coventry unmet need indicates it should remain in the plan as it is just outside the Coventry boundary.

H42 – Westwood Heath is a sensible addition as it can provide a substantial part of the Coventry unmet need and it is on the boundary with Coventry. The road network around the University and the business area to the south of Alderman Callow School is very congested at peak times and new dwellings this close could allow more pedestrian access to these facilities and reduce the traffic problem.

H43 – Kings Hill Lane is also a sensible addition to the MDLP. It may also help with the University and business area problem but to a lesser extent as it is beyond walking distance for all but the fit.

It means releasing Green Belt, but the balance has to be struck, that if Coventry has to grow to the current projection, which Green Belt has to be released? Is the value of Green Belt within Coventry of more value than the sites now identified.

The safeguarded land proposal is a sensible approach as it does not commit the whole of these sites until the projection and need has been confirmed to be necessary. The way that

the projections change in a short space of time and the effect of political decisions on migration and economic need for labour following the referendum result means that decisions that cannot be recovered should not be taken until these matters become clearer.