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12 September 2016

Dear Mr. Cardnell,

Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan Examination

Thank you for your letter of 26 August in response to my letter of 27 July.

Further to our telephone conversation last Friday, I write to let you know that we have sadly had a close family bereavement. For that reason it is with much regret that I do not feel that I can continue with the examination in a timely manner and ask you to seek a new examiner.

I am very sorry for the inconvenience that this will cause to you and the Parish Council and hope that you will understand that this has not been done lightly.

In order to be helpful to you, whilst writing, I must express some surprise and dismay that my advice that the Plan be withdrawn from examination was not taken up. The combination of concerns being raised by a number of representors at the Council's Regulation 16 consultation period, my doubt that the documents submitted to the local planning authority, and in particular the various documents submitted as the Consultation Statement, met the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and then concern over engagement with landowners led me to suggest that all these matters may point to a Plan that should not have been accepted for submission or progressed to examination by the local planning authority. I therefore strongly suggest that the local planning authority resolve these matters satisfactorily before putting the Plan before another examiner so that the local planning authority can be satisfied that the plan making process was robust and not vulnerable to successful challenge.

I am out of the office until 21 September, but perhaps you would be kind enough to let me know how you wish to proceed by that date. It is not in anyone's interests for there to be uncertainty about the Plan's progress. For your information I have now spent just over five days on the examination.

I look forward to hearing from you by 21 September.

Yours sincerely

Ann Skippers

Ann Skippers
Director

via email to Nick Cardnell, Senior Planning Officer – Planning (Community & Policy Development), West Dorset District Council