

From: Alex Brooker

Sent: 04 November 2019 13:14

To: PO Services <louise@poservices.co.uk>

Subject: Re: (1) Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination

Dear Louise

I refer to your email below from the Inspector inviting comment on the list of recent documents.

I attached a note from Messrs Pleydell Smithyman advising on these documents. With the permission of the Digswell Action Group, I enclose this letter setting out my serious concerns at the process here.

It is clear that the council is seeking to “retrofit” the evidence to fit their proposed strategy. There is a huge risk here with this course of action as highlighted in the case of the West Of England Joint Spatial Plan, where the Inspector has recommended that their plan be found unsound as a result of this approach being taken.

As set out by Pleydell Smithyman, there are serious reservations on the robustness of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment prepared by LUC, both in terms of aspects of its methodology in accordance with Natural England best practice guidance and the application of an opaque methodology specifically to the landscape covered by the DIG1 parcel.

Alex Brooker