

Petition against the consultation process as part of the 'Proposed Plan for Sustainable Development'

Residents of East Boldon recognise the unique opportunity to now 'allow people and communities back into planning' (National Planning Policy Framework 2012). We want embrace the opportunity to be part of the planning consultation process as recommended by the government. We are fully aware of the presumption in favour of sustainable development; however, we do not feel that the consultation process has been clear and transparent from the outset.

The majority of East Boldon residents have not received the 'Plan your Borough' leaflet. Moreover, this leaflet was presented in such a way that it appeared to look like a piece of unsolicited mail that seems to have gone straight into the bin for some residents. A more appropriate and transparent means of written communication to invite the community for their views would have been to write a letter individually addressed to each occupier (similar to the type of correspondence received when a local planning application has been submitted for a neighbouring property) highlighting the presumption in favour of sustainable development in a clear format. Also, the current online questionnaire is not accessible for all of our residents (some elderly residents have already indicated that they do not have the internet or an email address) and the questionnaire appears to be skewed in favour of proposed development.

In our view the consultation process has been flawed and it has prevented the residents becoming involved in the reformed planning process. As a result, the 'Keep Boldon Green' team and its volunteers are currently trying to raise awareness of the proposed planning development through their own leaflet distribution and this is taking away from the main focus which is to involve the community in assessing the feasibility of the proposed areas. We do not consider that six weeks is sufficient and/or reasonable to give all of the residents in East Boldon the opportunity to provide a considered response.

We respectfully request that you halt the process beyond the current deadline of June 30th to allow us sufficient time to fulfill the overarching principle, which is to actively be involved in 'the proposed plan of sustainable development'. If residents do not know about the proposed plans, how can they be involved?. Please consider providing an extension of an additional two months to the consultation process or produce clearer documentation which is addressed to each individual resident allowing them the option to complete an online or paper based questionnaire.

Please inform of us of your decision by the close of play on Wednesday June 8th. Please email the team at keepboldongreen@yahoo.com

Name:.....

Address:.....

Date:

Email:

Signed: