

## **Questions from NPSG 2016 and Answers from RCC November 2016**

### **1. The Local Plan Review – what feedback has been gained and what conclusions are being drawn i.e. is the apportionment of targets for new housing going to change or overall numbers?**

*In terms of the Local Plan Review, we are currently completing the site appraisal work by the end of this month and determining site options by mid-December. We are also completing the evidence base (until January 2017) and drafting the Plan for a Reg 18 draft plan consultation until May 2017. The Reg 18 Draft Plan consultation is scheduled to take place next June/July.*

### **2. At what stage is the assessment of the call for sites and what are the emerging likely areas being considered.**

*Our Planning Policy Manager is proposing to hold informal discussions on sites with Town and Parish Councils in the New Year to seek their views on the site appraisal process and preferred development options.*

### **3. How is the existing overstretched and congested infrastructure being investigated and/or what plans are being put in place to accommodate future growth in road traffic**

*The Council is preparing an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support the review of the Local Plan to accommodate required growth over the period to 2036. Infrastructure providers such as the police, fire and rescue and health authority, along with RCC services such as lifelong learning, highways and transport, waste, economic development, housing, culture, recreation and leisure sites are all being asked to identify infrastructure “pressure points”. The IDP will indicate what investments are required, when and how they might be funded and priorities will then have to be determined.*

*The housing and employment site appraisal process takes into consideration site access and the potential impact of the development on the wider road network. The potential for adequate mitigation that would be provided as part of the proposed development is then addressed in selecting sites to be allocated in the new Local Plan. A plan-wide strategic assessment of the overall capacity of the road network is also being undertaken to assess the potential impact of the overall growth. This will include consideration of the bypass and any necessary road improvements to reduce traffic problems including the traffic impact on railway crossings.*

### **4. What is being considered for when the level crossings are potentially closed on a permanent basis**

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*RCC have applied to the DfT Access Fund for Sustainable Transport for grant funding to undertake a feasibility study of the railway crossings and the impact that increased closure time will have on traffic within Oakham. One of the main aims of the feasibility study will be to identify and assess the options to improve connectivity specifically in Oakham, mitigating the impact of increased closure times of the level crossings due to more freight train movements and facilitating housing and business growth. It is proposed to undertake the feasibility and development studies and report findings by June 2018. A decision from the DfT is due in December this year.*

### **5. What are the findings from the recent survey to new residents in the area sent out from RCC**

*Please find attached a copy of the “Understanding future demands survey in Oakham and Barleythorpe” on-line survey which was completed by a total of 220 households (a 15% response rate). RCC’s Economic Development team are currently analysing the results and I can forward the findings when they become available in the coming weeks. They have also asked that if you have any questions about specific elements to please let us know and we can investigate for you.*

### **6. How will RCC keep the NP Steering Group informed of similar surveys going out in future**

*Following a discussion with the Economic Development team, we will ensure that details of future consultations are forwarded to the NP Group.*

### **7. What stage is RCC at with Town Centre Plans**

*Our Highways team have indicated that as the plans progress the NP Group will be fully consulted of the proposed Oakham High Street public realm and streetscape improvements at the end of the year or in early 2017.*

**From:** Colin Dunigan

**Sent:** 14 November 2016 14:22