

Leave The Layers Alone

11 October 2019

Dear LTLA supporter

Local Plan hearings update

We promised to update you after the hearings by the National Planning Inspectorate into East Suffolk Council's Local Plan. The Hearings took place at East Suffolk Council's offices in Melton between 20 August and 20 September.

Environmental lawyers Richard Buxton of Cambridge acted on behalf of Leave the Layers Alone, along with Michelle Bolger, Landscape Architect. The case against building on The Layers was also argued by both our Town Council/ Neighbourhood Plan leader Jeremy Smith and Roger Skinner through his own professional team.

The Inspector's report and findings are expected in the second half of November to early December. No doubt the results will be thoroughly reported in the local press.

We feel that LTLA's arguments against building on The Layers (as summarised in our letter to you of 8 May and repeated below*) were robustly and convincingly presented. Of course, we hope for a good and sensible outcome!

Meanwhile, many thanks to all LTLA supporters, with extra thanks to those who responded to our appeal to contribute to the costs of making our case in a professional way. With your support we were able to make it very clear to the Inspector that the objections to building on The Layers were widely shared throughout the whole community.

Christopher Lucas
on behalf of the LEAVE THE LAYERS ALONE

*LTLA supports the need to provide more housing in Saxmundham, especially affordable housing, provided it is:

- not on The Layers
- a sensible quantum ie up to 500-600 max houses, not the 800 proposed by both the Local Plan and potential developers
- planned to avoid coalescence or the joining of Saxmundham to nearby villages
- carefully integrated into the town, not lumped on a single site
- supported by the necessary infrastructure
- sensitively designed as regards impact on the historic areas of our town
- supportive of amenities (like the High Street)) which already exist.

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