



Methodist Church - Parish Council Office
Stanstead Avenue
Tollerton
Nottinghamshire
NG12 4EA

Date: 02/10/2025

To: Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council

Re: Consultation on the East of Gamston/North of Tollerton Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document

Dear Adam,

We are writing to request that you immediately pause the Consultation on the East of Gamston/North of Tollerton Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document which was launched yesterday. Despite being under consideration for more than a decade and there being very recent active conversations between the Parish Council and the Borough Council, the Parish Council was astonished and disappointed that a Consultation was launched last night at just after 5pm with no prior warning or input to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has a number of concerns about the way in which this Consultation has been planned and launched and we believe that Rushcliffe Borough Council may be at risk of breaching the Gunning Principles (as set out here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/The%20Gunning%20Principles.pdf>) and therefore that the Consultation is unlawful. Should the Consultation proceed in the way that it is currently planned then the Parish Council will not hesitate to explore a Judicial Review of RBC's actions.

The Parish Council's concerns are as follows:

1. The current Consultation timelines allows just five weeks for response - this in itself is far too short for a matter of such magnitude but furthermore, two of those weeks are the October school holiday meaning that in reality this leaves just three weeks for residents to respond to this Consultation. The Parish Council believes that this breaches Gunning Principle Three, that there should be "adequate time for consideration and response".
2. The Consultation period started at just after 5pm on the day of our most recent Parish Council meeting and finishes just before our next meeting; again not allowing the Parish Council, in a public meeting, to hear from residents, consider and respond to the Consultation. A further breach of Gunning Three.
3. The Consultation so far consists of a press release and social media posts and a public meeting. This does not appear to reach the threshold of Gunning Two ("there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'") for what is a detailed and technical set of proposals.
4. The Consultation is uniquely timed to prevent engagement with the monthly village newsletter, reducing the ability to share important information with residents in accordance with Gunning Two.
5. The public meeting as mentioned in (3) above is scheduled to be held both in the school holiday (a further potential breach of Gunning Three) and also in a venue outside of the Parish Council area (not easily accessible for some). There are several venues within the Parish area that would be available for Rushcliffe Borough Council to use should you be interested but the current proposals are not acceptable and risk falling foul of Gunning Two again.

6. Based on conversations with local elected members, the Parish understands that there is a plan to leaflet houses within Tollerton “at some point”. Without further detail of this plan it is hard to comment but we are sure that RBC would wish to undertake considerably more effort to reach the 900 households within the Parish than a simple leaflet. This would need to provide sufficient information to prevent a breach of Gunning Two (which in the view of the Parish Council would require more than a leaflet) and doing this in a timely manner to prevent a further breach of Gunning Three. At a minimum the Parish would expect hard copies of the SPD to be made available in the pub, the Methodist Church Hall, the telephone box library, the Post Office and the local shops, for a summary version of the document to be provided to each household and for there to be a visible public presence across multiple days within the Parish itself.

Yesterday the Borough Council gave a very public commitment “to understand and listen to people” on local government reorganisation. We believe the residents of Tollerton and Rushcliffe deserve the same commitment in this consultation. Rushcliffe Borough Council have levelled criticism at other councils paying “lip service” to consultation and yet in launching this consultation on the same day, have failed to get their own house in order, people in glass houses should not throw stones. The length and approach to this Consultation is entirely in the gift of the Borough Council to determine – and there is no rationale for doing it so badly.

It is unclear if the inadequate and poorly planned Consultation was deliberately designed as such in order to reduce the level of input from residents or if that is simply a result of poor work from your officers but either way it is not acceptable to the Parish Council and, as set out above, at risk of becoming unlawful. It is unclear to the Parish Council why neither the Parish Council nor your own elected members were involved in the design of this consultation (and despite email requests from the PC), and whilst this is consistent with the Borough Council’s repeated refusal to involve the Parish Council in the development of the SPD - the result is a poorly thought through plan that will undermine trust amongst residents in both the SPD and RBC itself.

The Parish Council would be happy to work with RBC officers to devise a Consultation plan that is acceptable to residents and that would give you more confidence of not being deemed to be unlawful. In order for that to happen the current Consultation must be paused and a revised plan put in place in due course.

We hope that you will accept this offer and pause the consultation to enable it to progress on a firmer footing.

Yours sincerely,

Tollerton Parish Council.

Parish Council contact:

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