

Name of Petition: Save Belpers World Heritage Site from Development

Additional Information:

The Conservative Borough Councils Draft Local Plan proposes developments in our World Heritage Site Buffer Zone. Such development would endanger the World Heritage site which is hugely beneficial to Belper and the surrounding environs, for Tourism, economy and our living environment. Belper has a number of brownfield and heritage sites that have been identified within the Belper Neighbourhood Plan which would preserve our town and provide the homes we need.

Therefore we the undersigned petition Amber Valley Borough Council to:-

“Replace policies HGS6 and HGS5 of the local plan, the Bullsmoor and the Belper Lane proposals, in their entirety, instead adopting the findings the AECOM Housing Needs Assessment and the resultant Strategy contains within the NP4B Neighbourhood Plan for Belper Draft 2 Built Environment and Housing document that has been supplied to the Council”.

Name of Petition Organiser: Councillor Ben Bellamy

Date of Receipt: 27 April 2017

Number of Signatures: 219 handwritten signatures, together with a typed list of 370 individual names and their location, which is marked ‘Signatures’ (some duplication between the two lists)

Outcome:

The Petition was considered by the Council’s Management Team on Wednesday 3 May 2017, who resolved that given its subject matter i.e. objections to one or more of the proposed Housing Growth Sites in the Draft Local Plan, that it be considered by the Council alongside all other representations received on the Draft Local Plan. A report in relation to the Draft Local Plan was presented to Full Council on 5 June 2017. This report considered the petition at the Full Council meeting on 5 June 2017, alongside other representations received on the Draft Local Plan.

In relation to land at Bullsmoor, Belper (policy HGS6 in the Draft Local Plan), the Council was advised that the Planning Board had resolved, on 15 May 2017, to refuse outline planning permission for mixed use development, including a maximum of 150 dwellings and a maximum of 6,000 sq. m of business and industrial floorspace, on land at Bullsmoor. The application site corresponded to that proposed in policy HGS6 in the Draft Local Plan. The Council was further advised that given the Planning Board's decision to refuse outline planning permission for the land at Bullsmoor and the reasons for refusal, which reflected many of the objections and concerns made through representations on the Draft Local Plan, it was no longer in a position to support the inclusion of the land as a proposed Housing Growth Site/Economic Growth Site. The Council therefore agreed that this site should therefore not be included in the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

In relation to land at Belper Lane, Belper (policy HGS5 in the Draft Local Plan), the Council carefully considered the various grounds of objection and concerns raised in relation to this site, but despite the acknowledged environmental impacts of development, concluded that the site is suitable in principle for housing development and that this can be delivered in the Plan period. The Council therefore agreed that this site be included in the Pre-Submission Local Plan. However, further consideration will be given to the wording of the policy and/or supporting text, to ensure that any proposals will provide sufficient mitigation against the environmental impacts of development.

The outcome in respect of the consideration of the petition by the Council was reported to the petition organiser on 15 June 2017.