

COUNCIL MEETING

26th MARCH 2012

ORAL QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

From Mr Ron Condon a resident of Beckenham of the Chairman of the Development Control Committee

Does the Council consider that Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and other designated spaces will receive adequate protection under the National Planning Policy Framework?"

Reply:

Councillor Dean responded that unfortunately with the National Planning Policy Framework not yet published, although it was expected tomorrow, the Council could not comment on the adequacy of any protection of Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land or Urban Open Space under the document. However, the Council would hope that the Government had taken into account its comments and those of other authorities.

The Council in its response to the Government's draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in the early autumn, referred to "frustrations and disappointment about the detrimental impact on the Green Belt in Bromley, and many residents will feel betrayed if the balance is not corrected to enable local protection of the Green Belt to be guaranteed". In addition the Council stated that "bearing in mind the emphasis on ensuring economic growth in the NPPF it will be of concern that lesser weight could be given to local plans and considerations". The Council queried how clauses in the draft NPPF would work in designated open spaces such as Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Space and Urban Open Space with the functions they were afforded and whether they would override those protective policies, despite the existence of a Local Plan and the London Plan.

Supplementary Question:

Mr Condon referred to the recent approval to the building of 48 houses on Metropolitan Open Land in Beckenham to help finance a sports complex with conference and banking facilities, much of which were indoor facilities and the loss of up to 6 outdoor football pitches. He asked how consistent was that with the Council's own policy and how committed was Councillor Dean to supporting the Council's policy?

Reply:

The Chairman replied that the Council's policy in relation to Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land had not changed given the decision in the KCCC proposal. The Council was committed to protecting Metropolitan Open Land and the Green Belt within the confines of Section G1. The application referred to was approved on the basis that there were very special circumstances for allowing that development to go ahead. This had also been supported by the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State who had decided not to call in this application. Therefore he felt that we were consistent with the policies of G1.