

Representation by Thorp Village Forum:

Response to Matter 6 Paragraph 6.5: Other Allocations for Housing and Mixed Uses (Policies SD3, SL2-SL18 and supporting text)

Paragraph 6.5 – The Inspector has requested responses to the following:

With regard to paragraph 5.30 of the Plan and the proposed changes to the Policies Map, are there exceptional circumstances for the removal of Thorpe Village from the Green Belt? In the light of NPPF (July 2018) and paragraph 136 in particular, should the Plan be modified to clarify that detailed amendments to the Green Belt boundary of Thorpe village may be brought forward through the neighbourhood plan, and if so, how should the scope of any proposed boundary changes be guided by the Plan? Would it be justified to make any consequential modifications to the Plan, for example, to provide guidance for other neighbourhood plans that may be brought forward?

Response by Thorpe Village Forum (the Qualifying Body)

Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum welcomes the Green Belt review of Thorpe Village as suggested by the Runnymede Local Plan and recognises that in most cases the recommended changes reflect a sensible tidying up exercise. Many residential properties will now have a Green Belt Boundary that coincides with their curtilage rather than crossing the property.

However, the Forum recognises that in order to shape the village as a sustainable community, its forthcoming neighbourhood plan may propose some modifications to the proposed Green Belt Boundary.

For this to be possible, Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum has been advised that the Local Plan must contain a strategic policy and/or justification for this specific purpose as part of its proposals to inset the village from the Green Belt so that the Neighbourhood Plan can benefit from NPPF (July 2018) paragraph 136 provision. The Forum seeks this reassurance and indeed guidance for both the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan but also other emerging Neighbourhood Plans within the Borough.

18 January 2018