

MID SUFFOLK CALL – IN NOTICE 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Call-in of Cabinet Decision MCa/22/27 - Elmswell Exemplar Housing Scheme, made 7th November 2022

We the undersigned, whilst supporting the intention to bring forward exemplar housing in the district, wish to call this cabinet decision in for examination by the scrutiny committee, for the following reasons:

1. The cabinet was not presented with all the information required in order to make an informed and sound decision. Whilst this area of land is owned by the HRA and the cabinet report describes it as “suitable for housing”, it is also an important and well-used open space within Elmswell village. It is not clear that, in the current planning policy context, and in the light of the very recent development control committee decision on application DC/22/03423 (also in Elmswell) that a planning application for housing on this site would be successful in gaining permission.
2. The risk matrix grid on page 146 of the cabinet papers described the likelihood of the site not gaining permission as (2) and the impact as (3) and recommends in mitigation that “thorough engagement with all stakeholders throughout the design and planning process.” However, no information was presented as to whether any engagement had taken place with development control to support this assessment of the risk.
3. No sequential test or supporting information was presented to cabinet to validate the selection of this site above any other site or sites in the district for exemplar housing, other than that this is a large site within the ownership of the HRA. Other possibilities that had not been considered include: a district-wide call for sites to deliver an exemplar scheme, which may have brought forward more sustainable alternative sites in community or private ownership, or a land-swap within Elmswell which could provide an alternative location for the exemplar housing scheme, whilst keeping this site available for future education provision in Elmswell which is the community’s clearly stated intention.

Signed in agreement by the following councillors:

Andrew Mellen

Sarah Mansel

Helen Geake

John Field

Penny Otton

John Matthissen

Andrew Stringer