

THORNTON ACTION GROUP SUMMARY IN RESPONSE TO THE AAP

It is the view of TAG that significant defects exist with the AAP - both the Submission and Addendum - and that these must be addressed before the AAP can be considered as sound.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

It is our opinion that there has been insufficient engagement with the community. This has been borne out by the representations made by TAG and other residents of Wyre Borough and from residents of the adjoining parishes of Fylde Borough. These representations have been presented in written form and also during the Hearing.

The SCI was formulated in order to ensure that residents felt they could influence the decisions being made on their behalf. The SCI has not been adhered to. To judge from the responses received, there is no support whatsoever from the public for the scheme in its current form.

There was support for the Preferred Option, but so many changes have been introduced since that time, that the initial favourable response has evaporated. How can the AAP go ahead without the support of the public?

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

There seems to be a reluctance to classify the Poolfoot Farm fields as a green space for the use of the community, to be protected beyond the life of the AAP. Why hasn't Wyre Borough Council seized the opportunity to secure the area's future as recreational or open space?

EMPLOYMENT LAND

We reiterate our point about the need to retain all the land designated for employment and not to change this to housing or mixed use.

Local employment is needed as part of a truly sustainable transport policy. To replace employment with housing sets back these aims.

Moreover, the change of use of the northern half of the Hillhouse Secure Site is a new element introduced at a late stage without proper consultation.

DISTRICT CENTRE

Again, this is a proposal on which we felt there has not been proper consultation and is a major change introduced after the Preferred Option has been agreed. The evidence is insufficient to justify a supermarket to compete with Morrisons. The effect on existing services in Thornton has not been assessed, neither has the conflict of HGV's and shopping traffic on Fleetwood Road North. Is it sustainable to permit another supermarket in essentially an out of town location?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our concerns about the number of affordable houses to be provided, remains. This is about providing houses for local residents within the local area. We are pleased to note that possible changes in FD1 and PS1 may increase the percentage of affordable houses built on those sites. Yet, overall, the AAP total will still fall below the 40% aspirational figure and certainly well below the 570 identified as the need across the Borough.

TRANSPORT

The A585 is the major economic artery of the Fleetwood/Thornton-Cleveleys peninsula. It is acknowledged to be at capacity at peak hours.

The Blue Route and the Railway line are but distant possibilities and unlikely to materialise during the lifetime of the AAP. Thus junction modifications on the A585 in advance of the new developments (as promised in the Preferred Option) are absolutely essential to the socio-economic well-being of the peninsula.

We support the principle of demand management of traffic (essentially private cars) but feel that the measures proposed have not been sufficiently thought through both in terms of costs and benefits. Millions, which could be used for junction improvements, could be frittered away without producing any tangible results.

SUMMING UP

We wish to see a sound AAP which does not perpetrate the cycle of more development, more congestion and a growing deterrence to businesses, and which is fully supported by the residents.

We thank you Madam Inspector for allowing us to put our concerns. We urge that actions will be forthcoming to rectify the deficiencies in order to produce an AAP that is indeed sound.

HOWARD PHILLIPS – CHAIRMAN OF THORNTON ACTION GROUP.

25th March 2009