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To: Development Plans
Subject: Land Allocations Document - Further Consultation - closing date 9 September 2011 - response

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The Council seeks 'views on three main areas' (fourth page of document headed Further Consultation whose pages are unnumbered - 'what is the Council Consulting on' refers)

1 Alternative sites; My comment is made in relation to Heversham & Leasgill.

I have studied the document Land Allocations - Further Consultation - Alternative sites put forward by respondents to consultation - dated July 2011 - Heversham & Leasgill . There is a schedule of sites and a Plan with reference numbers followed by a # sign. I have looked for notation to tell me what is the significance of this # sign or meaning but without success.

My reason for puzzling over this aspect is that one of the sites listed as an alternative site is R14. R14 was listed in the fact file put out to consultation in January 2011 a document which reflected the information 'available in December 2010'. That document Page 5 R14 under the commentary contains the statement 'including two responses in support, including the Parish Council'.

Thus it does not seem that site now identified as R14# is an alternative site but is one and the same that had already been proposed and apparently supported by the Parish Council upon which, there has already been an opportunity to comment. To call it an alternative site and list it as 'Proposed by Heversham Parish Council' in this latest consultation leads me to question the process. My concern is that it seems undue weight is being given to the Parish Council opinion.

I have attended two public meetings called by the Parish Council at which they 'sought the views of residents' and at which residents have spoken against development of R14. This is a site about which I myself have made written comment to the District Council as no doubt others have either 'for' or 'against'. I would like to think and believe that decisions are to be taken objectively by professional Planning Officers on planning grounds and principals whether with regard to this site or any others.

2 Time Span: I would suggest that the Council Land Allocations Policy should be 2003-2020. on the basis of suggested improved flexibility. However, I do have a concern about chopping and changing in what seems to have already been a drawn out process. It must be very difficult to remain energised and focussed in what is an already confusing process at least to me and no doubt others.

3 Small villages needs No opinion other than to say the present process has set neighbour against neighbour in this community. A method which avoids this is my preference in the interests of community cohesion and harmony.

J D Smith