

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE APPLETON ROEBUCK & ACASTER SELBY NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN**

EXAMINER: ROBERT YUILLE MSc DipTP MRTPI.

Mr T Ridley
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Examination Ref: 02/RY/ARASNP

Via email: tridley@selby.gov.uk

4 May 2017

Dear Mr Ridley

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Thank you for your email of 2 May, responding to my letter of 24 April, concerning the provision of further information and the consultation responses to support the Council's assessment that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required.

I note that the Council is able to evidence that the relevant statutory consultees have been consulted on the draft versions of the plan at various stages, however, it is unable to evidence that the SEA screening report was consulted on or published in line with the regulations. I appreciate this issue has arisen due to exceptional circumstances.

In the absence of a clearly evidenced audit trail, I feel compelled to request that the Council undertake a new SEA screening. In the interests of mitigating the risk of challenge, I consider the Council should consult on the assessment for, preferably, a 6-week period to ensure there is a full opportunity for public comment and to elicit responses from the relevant environmental assessment bodies.

I would be grateful if you could provide a planned timescale for this work.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of both this letter and the respective documents (in due course) are placed on the relevant websites.

Clearly, during the period of this further work, the plan examination will now effectively be suspended. However, I do propose to go ahead with my site visit as planned, which will ensure I am in a position to resume the examination swiftly on receipt of the necessary further information, post consultation.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Your sincerely

Robert Yuille

Examiner