NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN (PART 2) EXAMINATION

Inspector’s Post Hearing Note 5 – Policy BLA1 Blackfield and HSE Consultation Zones

1. This is the one outstanding matter in relation to possible further changes to the plan, as indicated in my earlier notes 3 and 4. I have now considered the views of the Health and Safety Executive (14 May 2013) and the responses from respondents (5, 177, 215 and 216).

2. On the basis of the views now expressed by HSE, I am satisfied that a development along the lines envisaged by the Council could be designed to be acceptable to the HSE. Whether or not more than 30 dwellings could be accommodated would depend on their precise location and/or density.

3. I therefore consider that the location of the site straddling the HSE’s consultation zones for Fawley/Hythe does not make the allocation unsound in principle. However, to ensure that the views of the HSE are taken into account at an early stage in the development of the allocation, it is necessary, for effectiveness, for the plan to refer to this potential constraint. I therefore ask the Council to include in the forthcoming consultation possible changes along the following lines:

Add an additional criteria to policy BLA1

- The views of the Health and Safety Executive with regard to safety in relation to Esso’s Fawley Refinery and the Hythe Terminal.

Add to the text at paragraph 3.143:

The BLA1 site straddles the middle and outer consultation zones defined by the HSE in relation to Esso’s Fawley Refinery and the Hythe Terminal. These zones trigger consultation on planning applications with HSE. It is essential that the proposed layout and density of the development on this site has regard to the likely advice from the HSE on any application.

Thank you.

Simon Emerson
INSPECTOR
18 June 2013