

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Mr Nash,

### **2011 – 2031 Housing requirement and Strategic Site Options**

Thank you for consulting Redditch Borough Council (RBC) on the above mentioned consultation. This is a response relating to the strategic options proposed to meet the increased housing need.

It is understood that Option A: Further Dispersal is based on an extension of the strategy of dispersal of housing development across the district as detailed in the Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

In respect of this option it is recognised that further dispersal could result in additional homes being distributed at the Main Rural Centre of Studley and Local Service Village of Mappleborough Green.

As stated in previous correspondence from RBC it is considered that development around Studley and Mappleborough Green has the potential to reduce the gap between Studley and Redditch, and Mappleborough Green and Redditch where this land serves an important Green Belt purpose to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another. Allocation of further sites around Studley and Mappleborough Green should be mindful of the coalescence issues between these settlements and Redditch.

Policy AS.8 of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy includes a principle “to retain the separate and distinct identity of Studley and maintenance of open gaps with Redditch”. This policy is supported and should be used in determining the options of further dispersal and allocation of sites around Studley towards Redditch.

In reference to Studley paragraph 7.8 notes that “While the village is surrounded on all sides by Green Belt, this area is particularly significant in preserving the separate identity of Studley from Redditch”. In addition the future development strategy under section 7.8 also states, “It is evident that the most critical feature about Studley

which should be preserved is its separate identity from Redditch. One of the key purposes of the Green Belt is to prevent settlements from merging into one another and it is important that the gap of open countryside between the two is not encroached on by development.” RBC supports the inclusion of these statements.

It should be noted that this is an officer response and that retrospective members endorsement is being sought at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Yours sincerely

Emma Baker  
Acting Development Plans Manager