

Planning Committee – 14 December 2021

Written question from Dom Hicklin to the Chairman

The NPPF section 30 plus the circulated recent government reply to the Council Leader and your noted comments by the planning advisory service and the local government Association, all reinforce the significant weight to be given to neighbourhood plans such as Bembridge's, Gurnard and Freshwater's. Why is this weight ignored by Council planning staff?

Response

The weight to be given to Neighbourhood Plans is not 'ignored' by Planning Officers. A Neighbourhood Plan, once brought into force, forms part of the overall development plan (including the NPPF and Island Plan Core Strategy) against which decisions must be made. Paragraph 30 of the NPPF states that the policies of a Neighbourhood Plan will take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan (in this case the Island Plan Core Strategy) where they are in conflict. It is not a situation where 'significant' weight is given to one plan or another. Although the NPPF recognises that there may be conflicts between a Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan, in reality any conflict should be minor given the requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the Local Plan (as set out in the NPPF).