

Online Comment

Application H02-0062-19
Location Land at Harvester Way Harvester Way Crowland
Proposal Residential Development - outline application for the erection of up to 100 dwellings with associated landscaping and ancillary works (all matters reserved) - approved under appeal decision H02-1087-14. Modification of Condition 5 relating to affordable housing

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Address Housing Strategy

Date Submitted 01-02-19
For/Against Comments

Should the development be permitted the current policy requires 1/3 of the development to be provided as affordable housing to meet district wide housing needs. However, given the direction of travel with the soon to be adopted emerging Local Plan, which requires 1/4 of the development to be provided as affordable housing based on viability evidence within the Whole Plan Viability study, Strategic Housing recommends that 1/4 (25%) of the development should be provided as affordable housing.

The affordable housing should be delivered in accordance with the affordable housing as described in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework dated July 2018, or any Planning Policy Statement, Guidance Notes or Circulars which may amend, supplement or supersede this.

The affordable contribution should be provided with a tenure split of 70% in favour of Rented and 30% Intermediate housing for sale dwellings. To meet needs identified within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014 & 2017 update) Strategic Housing would recommend that a mix of property types and sizes are provided for the affordable housing contribution, comprising of approximately 25% as one beds, 40% as two beds, 30% as three beds and 5% as four beds. As part of the REM application H02-0659-18 the affordable mix was agreed with a split of 23 for affordable rented homes and 10 for intermediate housing for sale. If it is agreed to reduce the contribution to 25% this mix will need to be amended. It would be preferable to agree this now with the developer and for the plans to be amended clearly identifying the plots proposed for the affordable housing contribution. A suggested mix is as follows:

18 for rent, comprising of 6 x 1 bed houses, 8 x 2 bed houses and 4 x 3 bed houses and 7 for intermediate housing for sale, preferably shared ownership comprising 2 x 2 bed bungalows, 2 x 2 bed houses and 3 x 3 bed houses.

It would be preferable for the affordable housing to be secured through a s106 agreement. The s106 agreement should include an agreed affordable housing scheme detailing the tenure split, property types and sizes, plot numbers, internal floor areas, design standards and the phasing of the affordable housing units.

It would be preferable for the homes to be built to the 'National Space Standards'. If this has a detrimental impact on the overall viability of the scheme and the proportion of affordable housing that can be delivered then as a minimum the affordable homes should be built to the following sizes:

1 beds 2 person 45sqm (based on 1 storey, will increase if proposing 1 bed houses over more than one storey)
2 beds 4 person 67sqm
3 bed 5 person 82sqm

Ideally the affordable housing should be spread proportionately across the scheme to enable a mixed and sustainable community.

The developer should also seek to secure a Registered Provider for the affordable dwellings at the earliest opportunity. The Strategic Housing Team can provide a list of RPs with stock in the local area should the developer require this.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment also identifies a recommended mix for market housing to meet current and projected housing needs in the district. The recommendation is as follows: 1 bedrooms- 5%, 2 bedrooms- 35%, 3 bedrooms- 45% and 4 bedrooms- 15%. We would expect the market housing to broadly reflect this.