

In the recent letter I received from Anna Graves, Breckland's Chief Executive, she indicated that the first of a series of next steps would be for the authority's senior leadership team and the council's cabinet to meet and discuss the implications of the recently-published government prospectus for garden towns. That meeting has apparently now taken place because Bill Borrett phoned this morning (from holiday) to say he had received a call from the leader of the council informing him that a letter would be despatched to LANPRO today, stating Breckland have decided that the development proposed is not something they are willing to support.

The details were a bit confused, no doubt because Bill is away and had not seen the letter but what he was very clear about is that Breckland have stated they will not support the proposed LANPRO development. As the government's prospectus is quite unequivocal that any proposal '....must be expressly supported by the local authority' and Breckland (the local planning authority) now apparently state they WILL NOT support it, that seems to completely remove the possibility of what is currently proposed going any further.

As it appears the local authority have informed LANPRO today that they will not be offering their support, there is no facility for proposers of a scheme to appeal, challenge such a decision or make a direct submission to government without local authority approval, this surprising turn of events would appear to entirely bring the matter to a close.

Although I would not wish to spoil this very welcome clarity, in a process that has been less than clear at times, I would just offer the caution that Bill was not clear on any details of what will be included in the letter. Should it transpire that the grounds for refusing support are things that can be addressed then the issue may be resurrected and re-considered in time. I have to say that it is a surprising turn of events, particularly if a detailed scheme has not even been submitted but I cannot really expect Breckland to discuss a letter they have not even sent to gain some further clarity.

Bill asked me to pass this news on to everybody and when I receive something that fills in the gaps I will pass that on as well.

Best wishes.

Trevor