

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Local Development Plan
Examination**

The Works Site, Steel Works Road
Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6YL.
Telephone: 01495 355716
Mobile: 07929463361
Email: programmeofficer@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

My Reference: ED.1

Date: 2 March 2012

Dear

Representor ID No:
Representor Name:

NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING MEETING – TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2012 AT 2.00 PM

My records show that you or your organisation has submitted representations in connection with the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan (the Plan).

This is now subject to independent examination and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the programme officer responsible for helping the inspector with all aspects of the examination administration.

The Ministers of the Welsh Government have appointed **Vincent Maher MA (Cantab) MCD MSc MBA MRTPI** of the Planning Inspectorate to conduct the examination which will include a series of hearings which are likely to start on 26 June at **The Works Site, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6YL**.

Before this, a **pre-hearing meeting (PHM)** will be held at The Works Site on 24 April at 2 pm. The aim of the meeting is to help Vincent and all interested parties to prepare for the hearings. Vincent will outline the procedures to be followed during the examination and will be able to answer any questions you may have in relation to the hearing sessions. It will also be a chance for you to discuss the agenda for the hearings that he is currently working on.

To help in making the practical arrangements please let me know if you wish to come to the pre-hearing meeting **by either:-**

- a. completing and returning the enclosed reply slip; or**
- b. emailing me on programmeofficer@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk**

N.B. Replies must be received by 17 April 2012

Vincent Maher MA (Cantab) MCD MSc MBA MRTPI - Planning Inspector
Jeanette John - Programme Officer

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Please could you also let me know no later than **10 April 2012** if you would prefer to speak in Welsh at this meeting or at any of the subsequent hearing sessions. I will then arrange for translation facilities. The Works is wheelchair accessible but do let me know if you have any other specific requirements.

The inspector is now considering the main matters and issues and how best to conduct the Hearing sessions. I am helping him with the programming of these. It is likely that there will be up to nine sitting days spread over three or four weeks starting on 26 June. The hearings will cover a range of issues identified by the Inspector and focus on the overall soundness of the Plan, having regard to the soundness tests as outlined in Local Development Plans Procedure Guidance¹ and the matters raised by the representations. The aim is to allow him to conduct a structured exploration of the issues arising, to assist his consideration of the plan's soundness.

Vincent has asked me to draw your attention to the fact that representations made in writing carry the same weight as those pursued by a personal appearance at any of the hearing sessions. In this respect, if you have now changed your intention as regards appearing in person or have decided to withdraw your representation, please indicate accordingly on the reply slip.

Do check the examination website at <http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/environment/17466.asp> for up to date information to ensure that you are aware of any relevant changes to the programme. I also enclose a map and directions to **The Works Site**. The examination library list, the inspector's guidance notes for the hearing sessions and an agenda for the PHM will be available shortly.

The Council provides free access to the internet at all six public libraries. However, please let me know if you would prefer a hard copy of the guidance notes and agenda to be posted to you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Jeanette John
Programme Officer**

Enclosure: Reply slip
Map

1. 'Examining Local Development Plans Procedure Guidance', The Planning Inspectorate Wales, November 2009
http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/ldp_procedure_guidance_eng.pdf

Vincent Maher MA (Cantab) MCD MSc MBA MRTPI - Planning Inspector
Jeanette John - Programme Officer

You are welcome to correspond in English or Welsh/Mae croeso I chi ysgrifennu yn Gymraeg neu Saseneg

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Name & Address

Representor ID No:

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If you prefer to be contacted by e-mail, please insert your e-mail address in the box below:

1. PRE-HEARING MEETING

If you have made representations on the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan, you may wish to attend the Pre-Hearing Meeting. To assist in making the practical arrangements, please tick as appropriate.

I wish to attend the Pre-hearing Meeting (PHM) on Tuesday 24 April at 2.00 pm

Yes No

2. HEARING SESSIONS

Please note that only those parties who have made representations seeking specific changes to the LDP are entitled to speak at the Hearings and they will need to demonstrate why the document is not sound and how the suggested changes would make it sound. Written representations (already submitted during the LDP process to date) written statements (as may be requested by the Inspector in response to matters raised by him) will carry as much weight as those presented orally at the Hearing Sessions.

To assist in making the practical arrangements, please tick as appropriate.

I have made representations at the Consultation stages that the Local Development Plan is unsound and should be changed.

Deposit SA/SEA Alternative Sites Focussed Changes

Either I wish to withdraw my representation;

Or I wish my representations to be considered as Written Submissions;

Or I wish to take part in the discussion at the Hearing Sessions which are likely to start from 26 June (details to be confirmed later).

Vincent Maher MA (Cantab) MCD MSc MBA MRTPI - Planning Inspector

Jeanette John - Programme Officer

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