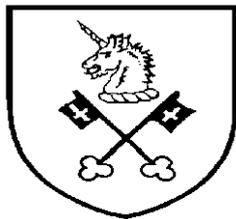


Prestbury Parish Council



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Ms. Caroline Simpson,
Director of Economic Growth & Prosperity,
Cheshire East Council,
Westfields,
Middlewich Road,
Sandbach,
Cheshire,
CW11 1HZ.

Monday, March 30th, 2015

Dear Ms. Simpson,

Re. Meeting about Macclesfield town centre development called by David Rutley MP, 26/3/2015

In 2012 Prestbury Parish Council objected to the Wilson Bowden Macclesfield town centre development plans because of its lack of originality and lack of sympathy with the existing town centre, the impact it would have on the setting of the Heritage Centre and the fact that housing had not been an integral part of the design. Our letter from the time is attached. We were therefore not sorry to hear that the plans are now in doubt as a result of Debenhams withdrawal from the scheme.

We were represented at the public meeting called by David Rutley M.P. and held at St. Michael's Church on Thursday 26th March, when applications were invited for membership of a new design team for the town centre. Following that meeting, we would make two points:

- (1) We would ask to be offered a place on the design panel

We explained in our letter of objection how there is a direct relationship between what happens in the town centre and what happens in the surrounding parishes. Since then Prestbury PC has been busy working to regenerate the centre of our own village, and has become an active member of the Cheshire Peak District Consortium. We strongly believe that in order to 'sell' Macclesfield as a tourist and shopping destination, it requires a unique identity, and that its success in this will significantly help the surrounding Local Service Centres to prosper as well.

- (2) We would suggest a minor amendment to the Local Plan.

Currently the 'Site Specific Principles of Development' which make up the second half of the policy on Central Macclesfield (Strategic Location SL 4) says:

"(b) retail and leisure sectors must be strengthened – with particular attention paid to the forthcoming Wilson Bowden development. This prime location must be properly integrated with the remainder of the Town Centre" (page 224)

We contend that there is no reason why Wilson Bowden should be specifically named in this policy, regardless of whether their involvement in the scheme continues or not. As the emerging Local Plan is currently suspended, it would be an ideal opportunity to remove the words “ – with particular attention to the forthcoming Wilson Bowden development” from that paragraph of the Local Plan Strategy, and to explain to the inspector that this is to take account of the uncertain present position.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR DICKEN
Chairman

c.c. Mr. David Rutley M.P.
Councillor Peter Raynes, Cheshire East Council