



**BRENTWOOD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Local Plan 2015-2030  
Preferred Options  
July 2013  
COMMENT FORM**

(For official use only)

Comment  
No.

Ack. date

You can comment on the Local Plan 2015-2030 Preferred Options online at

state the Policy reference or paragraph number):

Please specify if you Support or Object (tick as appropriate):

Support

Object

Comments (please use additional sheet if required):

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preferred options stage Local Plan 2015-2030. On the whole, it is encouraging to see Brentwood Borough Council recognise the importance of community forests as set out in paragraph 92 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by according Thames Chase a specific policy (DM19). The NPPF explains that community forest plans may be a material consideration when preparing development plans and deciding planning applications. The preferred options stage Local Plan therefore rightly makes reference to the Thames Chase Plan (2000). However this Plan is currently being reviewed by the Thames Chase Trust and its partners, with the plan timetable looking towards adoption in December 2013. As this will come after the preferred options consultation period has passed, this review should be noted so that the Brentwood Local Plan can appropriately embed the new Thames Chase Plan (2013) by the submission and examination in public stage. The Brentwood Local Plans team are being consulted as part of the Thames Chase Plan review.

The Trust's remaining comments are made on a policy-by-policy basis in relation to the Thames Chase Community Forest and are intended to constructively strengthen those policies that apply to Thames Chase within Brentwood.

*CP4: West Horndon Opportunity Area:* The Trust request that they be consulted as a stakeholder for the community master planning exercise planned for West Horndon when this occurs, as West Horndon falls within the boundary of the community forest

*CP9: Protecting the historic and natural environment and landscape character:* There is no mention of the Thames Chase Community Forest within this policy. The Thames Chase Plan supports the principles of this core policy and is a material consideration, and therefore reference to this Plan

should be made. The Thames Chase Trust should be added to the list of partners under delivery.

*DM17: Wildlife and Nature Conservation:* There is no mention of the Thames Chase Community Forest within this policy. The Thames Chase Plan supports the principles of this development management policy and is a material consideration, and therefore some reference to this Plan should be made. The Thames Chase Trust should be added to the list of partners under delivery.

*DM18: Landscape protection and woodland management:* Reference to the Thames Chase Community Forest should be strengthened and Thames Chase Trust added as a partner in the delivery section. Within the justification text, reference to the emerging Thames Chase Plan could be made as this review has highlighted two strategic opportunities within Brentwood borough that should be acknowledged in the Local Plan:

*Brentwood woodlands:* Integrating the management of the large woodland estates south of Brentwood for multiple benefits including nature conservation, recreation and exploring opportunities to grow woodland based local economic activity. Improve accessibility through developing the connectivity between sites and seeking to reduce the impact of traffic. [draft text]

*Brentwood pastures:* Restoring historic agrarian landscapes and encouraging environmentally friendly stewardship of meadows, hedgerows and copses. Support the planting of shelter belts and shaws to connect isolated woodland and meadows, and act as ecological corridors. [draft text]

*DM19: Thames Chase Trust Community Forest:* The policy heading should read 'Thames Chase Community Forest' and not 'Thames Chase Trust Community Forest'. The Trust is supportive of the Council's rejection of the alternative approach (combining policy DM19 with DM18: Landscape Protection and Woodland Management'). Acknowledgement that the Thames Chase Plan is being revised should be made within the text with a view towards the Thames Chase Plan (2013) being embedded by the Local Plan by submission and examination in public stage.

*DM32: Provision of Green Infrastructure:* There is no mention of the Thames Chase Community Forest within this policy. The Thames Chase Plan supports the principles of green infrastructure with the delivery of a network of connected greenspace representing a primary aim of the community forest initiative. As such, a reference to the Thames Chase Plan should be made with the Thames Chase Trust added to the list of partners in the delivery section. The Trust supports the Council's rejection of the alternative approach (combining policy DM32 with DM31: Protection and enhancement of open space, community, sport and recreational facilities)

#### *About Thames Chase*

Thames Chase Community Forest covers 40 square miles of countryside, straddling the border between London and Essex. Within Brentwood's boundaries, the community forest encompasses the area between the M25 and the A128, from the southern end of the borough at West Horndon to the A12 and the Brentwood urban boundary around Warley to the north. Since 2010, the Thames Chase Trust has been acting as an enabling organisation that has been responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of all the organisations with an interest in the countryside within the Community Forest, including leveraging in strategic funding and managing project delivery.

Please return to Planning Policy Team, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY, or alternatively attach completed form and email [planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk)

Please note that all responses will be published online. More information can be found at [www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan)

**All responses should be received by Wednesday 2nd October 2013**