



**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 [www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan). Alternatively, please use this form to share your views on the contents of the Local Plan.

**YOUR COMMENTS**

Please indicate which section(s) of the Local Plan you are commenting on (please clearly state the Policy reference or paragraph number):

*Paragraph 2.4*

*POLICY CP1 POLICY CP4*

*WEST HORNDON*

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

Support

Object

Comments (please use additional sheet if required):

*See attached sheet*

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

## West Horndon

The number of homes and general development proposed in West Horndon is out of context with the size of the existing village and the services currently available to the area. In paragraph 2.4 of the Preferred Options document the Council recognises that West Horndon has the potential for sustainable development and that significant improvements to infrastructure and services would be required to support growth at West Horndon.

The Council, is proposing to build 1700 new dwellings over the Plan period in villages excluded from the green belt. Out of this total, 1500 will be situated at West Horndon. This figure equates to 88% of all new dwellings to be built in villages excluded from the green belt, will be built in one village situated at the southern most part of the borough with an infrastructure that needs significant improvements. The figure of 1500 also equates to 43% of the total requirement, according to the preferred options, of all dwellings to be built in the borough over the Plan period.

Within Policy CP1 the Council confirm that they will take a positive approach in favour of sustainable development yet in paragraph 2.4 they recognise that West Horndon has the potential for sustainable development. Further on they confirm that significant improvements will be required to the infrastructure around West Horndon to cope with the proposed development.

In Policy CP4, headed West Horndon Opportunity Area, the wording is very vague when justifying the area to take the number of new dwellings and industrial premises being proposed. Within the paragraphs justifying the decision to choose West Horndon as an opportunity area, the Council mention the area has good road, rail access, local shops and community facilities. In reality the infrastructure supporting the area is not good with transport links connecting the village to Brentwood and other areas within the borough being poor hence why the Council recognise that significant improvements to the infrastructure are required. Local residents have commented on "over-crowded" trains and poor facilities.

West Horndon is described in Wikipedia," as a village surrounded by open countryside and an industrial estate. It is the first area east of London to be not continuously built up. There are hills rising as high as 100 metres covered in trees, arable fields and fenland of London clay." The village and surrounding countryside provide an important break from continuous development, exactly what the green belt was designed for and yet the Council are proposing to build on the green belt in the area in direct contravention of the origins of the green belt. There are other areas within the borough in the green belt that can be built on without compromising this key origin.

The village of West Horndon does not lie in a sustainable location capable of major development. It is clearly capable of expansion but not on the level proposed by the Council. The Council have decided on a major redevelopment of the area whilst paying scant regard to policies contained throughout their Preferred Options Plan. It would make far more sense to spread the proposed housing throughout the borough in far more sustainable locations, green belt will be lost but it is being lost with the proposals for West Horndon.