



**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. 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):

POLICY DM11 POLICY CP3 GREEN BELT

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

Please note that all responses will be published online. More information can be found at www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan

All responses should be received by Wednesday 2nd October 2013

Green Belt

Policy DM11 recognises the need to protect the green belt by making it virtually impossible for new development to take place. Within the majority of boroughs situated throughout the country the stringent controls over development in the green belt would be acceptable, however, the majority of boroughs are not situated entirely within the green belt. The Council by proposing Policy DM11 are restricting development within the borough to a level that does not meet the numbers identified within a recent study commissioned by the Council and carried out by Peter Brett Associated.

Whilst it is accepted that there needs to be a Policy that controls development within the green belt it needs to be more flexible and allows development if it meets sustainability targets and already has housing adjoining the site. Policy DM11 as proposed will restrict any form of development within the green belt which will affect local businesses. The Council point out that residents have identified the protection of the green belt as a priority, of course they have as it means the majority of them they will have no development near them. The survey that shows this are based on just over 4% of residents responding to the consultation.

In order for the Borough to grow and expand as identified in the Council's own study there needs to be development within the green belt and it cannot be safeguarded at all costs. There are sites, many that were dismissed by the Council in the SHLAA process, in 2011, that could provide small developments adjoining existing developments (not necessarily on village boundaries) in sustainable locations. Development in the green does not make the site unsustainable as is implied whilst justifying Policy CP3.

Government statistics revealed that green belt land in England had decreased by 130 hectares in the 12 months to March 2012, this accounts for less than 0.01% of the total area designated as green belt which makes up around 13% of the country.

There needs to be development in the green belt within the borough and not just in West Horndon, to meet the future needs of existing and future residents. Brentwood borough is in the most part and affluent area, well served by public transport where people wish to live.

The Council are allowing the green belt, through their proposed policies, to continue to constrain new housing and new employment land needed within the borough and not just at West Horndon.