



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Local Plan 2015-2030

Preferred Options

July 2013

COMMENT FORM

(For official use only)

Comment
No.

ID 2994

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.

PERSONAL DETAILS

YOUR COMMENTS

Please indicate which section(s) of the Local Plan you are commenting on (please clearly state the Policy reference or paragraph number): CP4 and DM28

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

Support

Object

Comments (please use additional sheet if required):

I am objecting the proposed development of 1500 new homes, and 14 traveller pitches in West Horndon, specifically CP4 and DM28 of the Local Plan. The outcome of this proposal would treble the size of our existing "village" and ruin it's community spirit and relaxed character.

Whilst I understand a need of development within the Bretnwood borough, I personal would not condone ANY development on green belt area. I do not understand, and have found no evidence to support, why West Horndon alone should take on 43% of the entire housing requirements.

West Horndon DOES NOT have existing excellent transport links, as suggested in the Local Plan. Our roads are conjested at rush hour with residential and commercial traffic. I do not understand how an extra 1500 homes (with an average of 2 cars per home) could be supported with the current road infrastructure.

The A127 and A13 are both already at a standstill in the rush hours, going in either direction (into/out of London, and into/out of Southend) creating long tail backs every day. The growth of Southend airport this get worse, add to that the traffic created from 1500 new homes and we will have some serious traffic problems.

The A128, which links West Horndon to A127 & A13 is also at breaking point during rush hours. It is a slow drive into Brentwood using the A128 most mornings – our School Bus currently leaves the village at 7.30am to ensure the children arrive in time (it is a 5.4 mile journey)

We have 2 train lines in place which are running at full capacity. These lines run straight out of the Borough in either direction – how would these lines (which support a 12 carriage train) cope with the additional commuters that 1500 new homes would bring? I fail to see how the new homes will bring revenue into the Borough, as suggested in the LDP, when they can only carry commuters in and out of the Borough?

I don't use the Bus service so am not sure which bus routes are available, however I have been told they are insufficient to current demand, and has been for a very long time. Are the bus companies prepared to introduce new services, buses and routes? Surely this would hinder the A128 even further.

West Horndon has a few very small independent shops servicing its existing village – a lot further from the statement in the LDP stating that “our infrastructure is good with a range of shops and amenities”. There's a newsagents, a small mini market and a Post Office - neither of which could be expanded but would be out of business if new shops (such as Supermarket Express shops) were introduced.

Our existing Doctors and Primary school are already oversubscribed. How much will it cost to expand these facilities to cater for an additional 1500 homes (over 3000 people)?

We do not have a Secondary school that is within walking distance to the residents. Our catchment school is Brentwood County High School (BCHS) and the children commute to/from on a school bus. How many more buses are required to accommodate the number of new homes, and how will the roads cope? I understand that BCHS is at full capacity.

The village have a small café which is used by the local workers from the industrial estate – this café would be made redundant if the industrial estate were moved.

The local restaurant and pub would benefit from more residents, probably.

The village could do with further facilities for children such as Youth Club, Sure start centre etc...however there is no suggestion of this in the LDP.

How many millions would need to be spent on our existing utilities infrastructure to bring it in line and able to cope with this mass of new homes? Our overhead electric supply would need to be made underground and the gas points would also need a major overhaul. Our water waste disposal and sewer systems are already vulnerable and would not be able to cope with the additional output that would be created from the new homes. Our drains are regularly overflowing with the onset of heavy rain. We have problems with our shared sewer waster, as the pipes are extremely old and fragile and do not currently cope. The whole waste disposal system would need redeveloping.

We live on a floodplain, my house particularly as we flooded quite badly on 25th December 2012., resulting in a flood damage claim of £25,000 - we were not alone in this, several of our neighbours suffered the same destroying damage. Our village is built on London clay and cannot cope with sustained amounts of rainfall, resulting in flooding. This has happened several times since the inception of West Horndon Village and has been part of the Thames flood plain for hundreds of years. Climate change, global warming and rising sea levels will only add to it's fragility. It is simply “Not responsible to build on a Flood Plain”.

I do not understand how moving the industrial estate will improve the provision for employment as stated in the LDP. We would, in fact, lose hundreds and hundreds of jobs. Where does it state how the new homes will create new jobs? By moving the industrial estate to another area close to the M25 you are simply taking the employment and jobs to another borough. Therefore contradicting what is stated in the LDP core policies.

I am concerned about the proposal of 14 traveller pitches. How big is a pitch? And how many

homes can be accommodated on a pitch? I was brought up in an area where there was a facilitated Traveller Site within the village and it worked well, but it was a secure settlement and was habited by the same Traveller family – is this the proposal for the new pitches in West Horndon? Where are the new pitches going to be sited? There is simply not enough information to allay worries and concerns that this could turn, very quickly, into the new Dale Farm.

Our Metropolitan Green Belt fields surrounding West Horndon need protecting – as stated in the National Planning Policy Framework “The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open” The LDP propose to build directly on our Metropolitan Green Belt – a natural haven for our wildlife; Pipestrelle Bats, Badgers, Dunnock, Thrush, Finch, Nightingale, Tawny Owl, The water vole, many many species of butterfly and moth to name just a few.

The LDP needs to be looked at by BBC at a much greater level than it’s current proposal – it simply does not support itself or provide much evidence of real sustainability.

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