



North Mymms District GREEN BELT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Decision time gets closer

- On Thursday 13 January the Council's Cabinet Parking and Planning Panel (CPPP) will meet to make a final recommendation of a list of sites for development in the Local Plan.
- The recommendation will be considered by the Cabinet on Thursday 18 January and be submitted to full Council for approval on Thursday 27 January.
- The Officers have prepared an options plan for the CPPP which they believe will meet the Inspector's detailed requirements for what changes he expects in order for him to judge the draft plan "sound".
- Essentially this identifies sites which will deliver around 15,200 dwellings over the plan period 2016-2036. It includes a number of additions and changes to the sites included in the draft plan.
- You can access the recommendations through the Council's website [here](#)
- You can also follow the meetings through the Council's streaming service.

Additional sites for North Mymms

- The recommendation to the CPPP includes the following **additional sites** in North Mymms. These sites have already been considered by the Inspector.
- **Welham Green**

WeG12 Pooley Lane	40 dwellings
WeG6 Skimpans Farm	73 dwellings
- **Brookmans Park**

BrP4a Land west of Brookmans Park Railway Station 128 dwellings
(Note: this is an extension to HS22 and would bring the total number of dwellings on the site to 428).

- **Little Heath**

LHe4/5a Part of Studlands/Videne, Hawkshead Road 27 dwellings
(Note: HS24/BrP7 Land south of Hawkshead Road is no longer recommended).

- For a full explanation of the recommendation go to Appendix A of the papers for the CPPP meeting: Housing Site Selection Background Paper Addendum 2021; pages 48-70.
- The full list of proposed sites for the parish and the borough is in option D of Appendix D.

What's to be done?

- Neither the Council nor the Inspector is consulting the public at this stage.
- Provided the changes agreed by the Council are sufficient for the Inspector to consider the Plan to be "sound" there will then be a public consultation on what are called "Main Modifications" to the current draft.
- The consultation period will last six weeks and is expected to start in February. We shall submit our views and, subject to Covid-19 restrictions, expect to hold a public meeting of our members to discuss the proposals.

We are profoundly unhappy at the scale of the proposed development on the Green Belt within the Borough and the Parish of North Mymms.

The number of proposed dwellings is far in excess of what is required by natural population growth and local need.

Central government policies are driving up housing targets and pressurising local councils to designate Green Belt sites but it is a great shame that the Council did not heed valid representations by ourselves and others to reduce these numbers when the opportunity was there.

There is at the least, confusion and obfuscation in Central Government policies. "Not on green fields" – the Prime Minister's emphatic statement to the Conservative Party conference in October, is not borne out by the facts.

As reported in our last newsletter, we wrote to Secretary of State Michael Gove to ask for clarification of the PM's remarks. We also arranged to meet with Welwyn Hatfield MP Grant Shapps.

The reply to our letter to Michael Gove took eight weeks and came unsigned from the “Planning Policy and Reform Correspondence Team”, just an hour before we were due to meet with Grant!

The reply stated clearly “...this Government is firmly committed to protecting and enhancing the Green Belt for future generations” but went on to emphasise the housing targets. It offered no support for anything that might reduce the development threatening the Green Belt in Welwyn Hatfield. The full reply is on our website [here](#)

We had a lengthy zoom meeting with Grant who, as always, listened carefully. But although he understood our frustration he was not able to provide any immediate reassurance. He said he hoped that the forthcoming White Paper on planning reform (expected this month) might offer a way forward. We shall see.

We shall continue with the fight to protect the Green Belt but so far we are not winning! We need your help so please let us have your 2022 membership subscriptions through our website. [here](#)

Do share this newsletter with your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join.