

Test Valley Borough Council Next Local Plan - Refined Issues and Options Consultation

COMMENTS FORM

Test Valley Borough Council has published for public participation its Refined Issues and Options document. This is the second stage of preparing the next Local Plan, which follows the Issues and Options consultation in 2018.

You can respond to our consultation by filling out the form below. Further information can be found on our website at: www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan

The consultation period runs from Friday 3 July 2020 to 4.30pm on 28 August 2020. Please respond before the close of the consultation period.

Once the form has been completed, please send to

If you are unable to send via email, please send a postal copy to our address below.

Contacting us

We are happy to help. If you have any queries, please contact us at:
Planning Policy and Economic Development Service
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

Tel: 01264 368000

Website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan

Part A: Your Details

Please fill in all boxes marked with an *

Title*Mr		First Name*	
Surname*			
Organisation* (If responding on behalf of an organisation)			

If you wish your comments to be acknowledged and to be kept informed of progress, please provide your email address below:

Email Address*	
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If you don't have an email address and wish your comments to be acknowledged and to be kept informed of progress, please provide your postal address.

Address*		
	Postcode	

If you are an agent please give the name/company/organisation you are representing:

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Personal Details and General Data Protection Regulation

Please note that representations cannot be treated as confidential. If you are responding as an individual, rather than as an organisation, we will not publish your contact details (email/postal address and telephone number) or signatures online, however the original representations will be available for public viewing at our offices by prior appointment. All representations and related documents will be held by the Council for a period of 6months after the next Local Plan is adopted.

The Council respects your privacy and is committed to protecting your personal data. Further details on the General Data Protection Regulation and Privacy Notices are available on our website

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/accesstoinformation/gdpr>

Part B: Your Comments

Please use the boxes below to state your comments and questions. Please make it clear which paragraph or question your comments relate to where possible.

Paragraph / Question Ref	Comments
	<p><u>Response from Ampfield Parish Council: August 2020</u></p> <p><u>Specific comments</u></p> <p>Within the next 10 years, it is very likely that particular features of today's life in Test Valley will assume far greater importance than they appear to be given currently. It is essential that these are accommodated fully in the Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Communication and information. For a community to function at anything near its optimal level, it will require consistent high-quality broadband access throughout. If Ampfield or Test Valley, for whatever reason, is left behind in the availability of very high-speed broadband, or whatever technology supersedes broadband, it will be at a very material competitive disadvantage to other communities. b) Sources of energy. It may reasonably be assumed that dependence on hydrocarbons as a source of energy will be in decline sharply within the next 10 years. In order to compete, Ampfield will need access to alternative sources of power, eg solar, ground heat pumps. This requirement will need to be recognised and accommodated within the planning framework. (E.g. within the policies referring to Conservation Areas, listed buildings, etc.) c) As people are encouraged to take up walking and cycling, the lack of car parking within the countryside will need to be resolved. It is reasonable to assume accessible areas of countryside will receive an ever-increasing number of visitors over the course of this Local Plan, the majority of whom will require car parking facilities. <p><u>See answers to questions below</u></p>

Please use next page if necessary

Answers to Questions

- 1)
 - a, Should we maintain the two existing HMAs, but perhaps with a revised boundary between them, such as enlarging the area within STV HMA. If so, what additional area(s) of the Borough should be included within STV HMA?
Yes, maintain the two HMA's.
Geographically, there would appear to be an argument in favour of enlarging the SHMA. Specifically, it seems illogical to split a ward with part being in one HMA and part being in another.
 - b, Should a single HMA for the whole of Test Valley be used?
No. Local communities have local issues and requirements that need to be understood and planned for locally.
 - c, Should additional HMAs be created, increasing the number to 3 or 4, with the additional HMA(s) applying to the rural area?
No. The current arrangement of two HMA works, adding more HMAs simply adds to the bureaucracy. Having said that, this question is not specifically relevant to Ampfield
- 2) In determining HMAs how should wider relationships with settlements beyond the Borough's boundaries, be taken into account, including with Southampton, Salisbury and Winchester?
HMA's within Test Valley should be determined by the requirements of the residents of Test Valley. Whilst it can be argued that residents of Ampfield depend to a very large extent on the facilities offered by its larger neighbours, it is considered important that the policies which impact directly on residents should be based on established local need.
- 3) Should an alternative approach to using parish boundaries be used for HMAs? If so, would this be easily be identifiable and practical for monitoring purposes?
No. Parish boundaries exist and work. People like to understand and feel familiar with factors that affect them and their future.
- 4) Should the number steps of the settlement hierarchy be increased, for example by sub-dividing the 'rural villages' into two separate tiers?
No. Difficult to identify any benefits arising as a result, specifically any affecting Ampfield residents. It is difficult to see why sub-dividing the rural villages into two hierarchies will produce any tangible improvement and could incur higher costs.
- 5) How should we decide which settlements to include within each step of the settlement hierarchy?
By evaluating the density of population, services, facilities and numbers of dwellings within an area. The need to protect and enhance valued landscapes may also have a bearing.
- 6) Should we consider groups of rural settlements together, where these are closely related it each other and/or share facilities and services?
There does not appear to be any appetite amongst Ampfield residents for change in this connection. Evidence gathered during the process of writing the 2019 VDS suggests Ampfield residents are very well aware of the significance of their own surroundings, proud of their community and express no wish to further amalgamate with neighbouring settlements.
Countryside and green open spaces are much valued by residents and should be retained. Care should be taken not to erode existing local gaps, both those formally designated and those that are not.

7)	<p>How should we treat rural settlements which are close to other larger settlements and can therefore also easily access their facilities and services?</p> <p>If these settlements are currently independent parishes, they should remain so if that is their wish. Care should be exercised with regards to local gaps, see 6) above.</p>
8)	<p>In updating the settlement boundaries to reflect recent development which has built and development with planning permission, should we also include new allocations?</p> <p>Settlement boundaries should determine local developments, not be extended to reflect them. Unless there is very clear evidence of need, Settlement Boundaries should not be extended simply to encourage further development.</p> <p>Ampfield residents believe that Settlement Boundaries play a significant role in creating the woodland and countryside open spaces and views that are much loved. Where there is a long history of development under licence, there could be merit in updating Settlement Boundaries to reflect current reality.</p>
9)	<p>How should we define 'Settlement Boundaries'? What types of land uses should be included, such as public open space?</p> <p>Settlement Boundaries are drawn to indicate the extent of areas where, subject to satisfying other aspects of a Local Plan, development might be deemed to be permitted. It may be necessary to include public open space within Settlement Boundaries and, where this is the case, the future of that public open space can be further protected by the plan.</p>
10)	<p>Should the approach to using whole curtilages for defining settlement boundaries be retained, or should we take account of physical boundaries which extend beyond curtilages, or limit settlement boundaries to only parts of curtilages?</p> <p>The principle of using whole curtilages should be retained.</p>
11)	<p>Should settlement boundaries be draw more tightly or more loosely, and perhaps reflecting which tier settlement is within the settlement hierarchy?</p> <p>Over 90% of the Ampfield parishioners believed that woodland and countryside open spaces are the key characteristics of Ampfield and materially influence its appearance and ambience. There is no evidence to suggest there would be any appetite within the parish to amend the current principles involving the drawing of Settlement Boundaries.</p>
12)	<p>Should settlement boundaries provide further opportunities for further limited growth beyond infill and redevelopment?</p> <p>In order to preserve the local character of Ampfield and its open, undeveloped areas, it is important that development outside of the current settlement boundaries, e.g. ribbon or backland development, should be avoided. Development permitted within the Settlement Boundaries should be consistent with government policies and the Planning Guidance Notes set out in the Ampfield VDS 2019.</p>
13)	<p>Should we have a specific policy for self-build homes?</p> <p>All development, including self-build, should be subject to a single set of planning policies, regulations and associated guidance. Self-build homes should be no exception to the requirement that the design, style and features of the development should be in keeping with its neighbourhood and should respect, compliment and integrate with the character of the area in which the development is located.</p>

14) Should we have a policy for large housing sites to include a proportion of serviced plots to be made available for sale to those seeking to build their own homes?
No comment but see 13) above.

15) Should self-build housing to be delivered as part of community led development?
No comment; see above Q13 & Q14

16) Could the introduction of a self-build housing policy also be an opportunity for the Council to tackle the issue of climate change?
All future development should provide a very clear opportunity to introduce the question of climate change. It is not clear that a 'self build' policy, in itself, would make a material difference

17) Should a revised tourism policy be more flexible for potential new tourist attractions?
More flexible than what? No comment.

18) Should a revised tourism policy be more supportive of innovative proposals?
No comment. See Q 17.

What happens next?

All valid responses will be acknowledged and you will be given a reference number. Please quote this number when contacting the Council about the next Local Plan. If you have an agent acting on your behalf, correspondence will be sent to your agent.

All response received will be taken into account as part of the preparation of the next Local Plan.