

Regulation 18 Stage 1

COMMENTS FORM

Test Valley Borough Council has published its Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 1 document for public consultation. This consultation document sets out draft strategic planning priorities for Test Valley supported by a number of strategic policies.

The consultation period runs from Friday 11 February to noon on 8 April 2022. Please respond before the close of the consultation period so that your comments may be taken into account.

You can respond to our consultation by filling out the form below. This form has two parts:

Part A: Your Details

Part B: Your Comments (please fill in a separate sheet for each comment you wish to make)

Further information can be found on our website at:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2040

Once the form has been completed, please send to
[REDACTED] by **noon on 8 April 2022**.

Following receipt of your comments from, we will keep you informed of future consultation stages unless you advise us that you want to opt out of such communication.

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

Contacting us

Planning Policy and Economic Development Service
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

Tel: [REDACTED]

Website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan

Email: [REDACTED]

Part A: Your Details

Please fill in all boxes marked with an *

Title* Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other (please state)	Mrs	First Name *	Jacqueline
Surname*	Grey		
Organisation* (If responding on behalf of an organisation)			

Please provide your email address below:

Email Address*	████████████████████
-------------------	----------------------

Alternatively, if you don't have an email address please provide your postal address.

Address*	██	
	Postcode	████████
	e	

If you are an agent or responding on behalf of another party, please give the name/company/organisation you are representing:

--

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 6 months 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. Insert any general comments you may have that do not relate to a specific paragraph number or policy in the general comments box. For specific comments, please make it clear which paragraph, policy or matter your comments relate to where possible.

If you are suggesting a change is needed to the draft Local Plan or supporting document, it would be helpful if you could include suggested revised wording.

If you are commenting on a document supporting the draft Local Plan (such as a topic paper, or the Sustainability Appraisal), please indicate so.

General

Firstly, I would like to challenge the absence of settlement boundaries in this consultation document as there is no mention of them. These were established in 2006 to protect villages from sprawling development and I believe they should remain as they serve a useful purpose and reference to them will probably be made in every Neighbourhood Plan that has been prepared by the villages.

There are precious green spaces between villages and these should be vigorously defended in order to maintain the separate nature of the individual communities and to preserve important views of the countryside.

I would like to question the six facilities which seem to be suggested as 'essential' to village life. I will expand on each of these later but believe that these are not fundamental to the life of a village, nor are they vital to the 'sustainability' of a village. Rural communities have fought vigorous campaigns to stop their schools, shops, banks, post offices and pubs being closed down over the years but despite these closures, and the impact they make on residents, the villages they have served continue to thrive. They remain attractive to those living there and evidently to others aspiring to live in a village setting. The same can be said of places of worship. These now only appear to serve a minority of the population and are experiencing a continued reduction in congregations and combined services and management are required.

The word 'sustainability' has become overworked and overused. From this report it now seems to be synonymous with ripe for development. This is what it was intended to mean:

“Sustainable development is the idea that human societies must live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The 'official' definition of sustainable development was developed for the first time in the **Brundtland Report** in 1987. Specifically, sustainable development is a way of organizing society so that it can exist in the long term. This means taking into account both the imperatives present and those of the future, such as the preservation of the environment and natural resources or social and economic equity.”

The Tier system, which splits the rural villages into different levels for the purposes of development potential, is very muddled. To join Goodworth Clatford and Upper Clatford together because they are close together is ludicrous when other villages with similar geographical proximity like Thruxton, Kimpton and Fyfield retain their individuality. The settlement hierarchy as set out in the Adopted Local Plan 2016, with all the Test Valley villages together in one tier, makes much more sense.

To suggest that a bus service can be described as good when there are only two a day is positively risible. Ask any reasonable member of the public who wants to go work in town, or do some shopping and return in a couple of hours. If the object of this exercise is to reduce journeys by car then placing more houses in the villages without adequate transport provision the strategy will fail. Many families with children currently have frequent car journeys ferrying their offspring to school, activities and socialising with friends because the bus service is inadequate.

Paragraph Ref	Specific Comments
	<p data-bbox="379 284 820 320">Appendix 4 NTV Out Change</p> <p data-bbox="379 356 1375 757">SHELAA Ref 364 identifies the 'Whitehouse Field' as having potential for 500 homes on what is described as golf course land. This land has never been a golf course, or formed part of the Hampshire Golf Course across the B3420, although it might have been purchased at the same time. It was used for many years as a dumping ground for miscellaneous debris in a scheme originally devised to level out contours in the land. However, this was unregulated and unmonitored by TVBC. Buried rubbish could potentially pose a significant threat to any housing development. Given that Goodworth Clatford has fewer than 500 homes, to impose a large scale development like this in such a prominent position would be preposterous.</p> <p data-bbox="379 792 903 828">Settlement Hierarchy Assessment</p> <p data-bbox="379 871 1337 1088">I cannot understand why certain villages are conjoined for the purposes of this consultation with a near neighbour and not others. East and West Tytherley, for instance, retain their established settlements despite sharing a name. As do Up Somborne and Little Somborne, which have no facilities whatsoever, and are conspicuously not 'attached' to King's Somborne.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1128 1343 1272">It is very odd that several villages with few or no facilities at all have such a high standard of public transport. Might this make some development advantageous in these areas if one of the purposes of sustainable development is to reduce car journeys and emissions?</p> <p data-bbox="379 1312 1337 1456">Is it possible to explain why Chilbolton and Wherwell, and Monxton and Ampport have all been put into Tier 4 when, like the Clatfords, they share some facilities? The latter villages also have a good bus service which might be a better reason to elevate them to Tier 4?</p> <p data-bbox="379 1496 877 1532">Table 10 Settlement assessment</p> <p data-bbox="379 1536 1362 1787">The list of key facilities seems arbitrary and based on urban criteria. There is no evidence to suggest these are what village residents want, or need, to enjoy their rural lives. Some may be quite irrelevant to the majority of residents. The 'sustainability' of a village, in the context of not ruining it for future generations and continuing to be an attractive and desirable places to live, does not rely solely on the available facilities, or transport links.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1827 1362 2110">Giving full regard to the opinions of the local electors, as cited in the Neighbourhood Plan, top of the list might more reasonably be open access to countryside and important views. Other factors might be a strong sense of community, thriving local organisations like the Women's Institute, clubs for tennis, bridge, gardening and amateur dramatics etc. There are activities for young people like Mums and Babies Groups, Beavers and Scouts, walks along the river, engaging with wildlife and building new habitats which more accurately</p>

enhance a sense of well being for all age groups.

List of facilities for Goodworth Clatford/Upper Clatford:

Shop – the community shop in GC is far from secure even though running costs are kept to a minimum and much use of volunteers is made. It has to compete with an ever-growing number of supermarkets and food outlets, which continue to be permitted in the Andover area, and the surge in online shopping. It is vulnerable now so the likelihood of it surviving for the period of the next Local Plan has to be in doubt. Therefore any decisions made on it being open are unsound.

Currently it serves not only these two villages but also surrounding settlements and welcomes a multitude of contractors and other casual shoppers. It cannot accurately be described as a shared facility solely with Upper Clatford when UC has the additional benefit of a closer farm shop in Anna Valley.

Public House – there are two in GC and another in UC but they are not exclusive to the local communities. In particular, the Royal Oak is a destination pub used by people from all over the Andover area. The Crook and Shears is just under new management so it may take some time to establish a strong customer base. Again these businesses are vulnerable and may not survive the life of the Local Plan.

Primary school – While the catchment area for Clatford Church of England (Aided) Primary School is the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter's Goodworth Clatford and All Saints Upper Clatford, children do attend from further afield as is evident from the traffic coming into the village every morning from the A3057. The school is highly rated and there have been instances where children moving into the village have not been able to attend immediately as it is full. There is a delicate balance which needs to be maintained. Any more pressure, even from small scale housing developments, could cause further problems and be unwelcome.

Outdoor sports facility – the football ground in GC is largely used by teams from outside the village and their cars cause considerable congestion on Barrow Hill. The playground equipment is well used by children from the village and again visitors from further afield. As a gift from a landowner the field has protected status and cannot be built on. The tennis court to the rear of the village club is leased to a tennis club whose members include players from outside this village. In UC the football fields lie on the southerly edge of the village and again are largely used by outside teams. There is sufficient room there for vehicles to be parked inside the perimeter so it does not affect traffic on the village street.

Village Hall – various events for all age groups are held at the village halls which are open to both villages and the general public. There is adequate parking for those attending events from further afield.

Place of Worship – St Peter's Church, like many other churches is not very well supported by the local community so could not be seen as a major facility despite its strenuous efforts to appeal to a wider group and extending a welcome to non-religious residents. All Saints has a similarly declining congregation.

Transport – the bus service for Goodworth Clatford is poor at best and cannot be realistically described as good. There is a twice a day service from GC – 9.23am arriving at bus station at 9.40am and another at 12.23pm arriving at 12.40pm. There is only one return from Andover at 11.15am getting back to GC at 11.31pm. This makes the service totally unviable for those needing to travel to work and not even very useful for people wanting to shop in the town. Sadly, the service is seldom used which has made it subject to being axed through lack of use. In truth it does not even qualify as medium even though for the few that do use it, and need it, it is of vital importance.

I note that Barton Stacey's bus service, which is similar to GC's, is given an L rating. There is a twice a day service leaving at 11.05am arriving at Andover bus station at 11.35am and a second leaving at 14.22pm arriving at 14.40pm. Again the return journeys make it impossible to use for working people.

Smannell, Vernham Dean and St Mary Bourne are also rated L but have three services a day, along with Braishfield, Timsbury and Michelmersh.

In conclusion, I would suggest these strategies are far from acceptable and many amendments are needed in order for progress to be made. Far more weight needs to be placed on environmental issues and protecting important landscapes and communities for the benefit of future generations.

Please use next page if necessary

What happens next?

All valid responses received within the consultation period will be acknowledged and you will be given a reference number. Please quote this number when contacting the Council about the Local Plan 2040. If you have an agent acting on your behalf, correspondence will be sent to your agent.

All responses received will be taken into account as part of the preparation of the Local Plan 2040.