

Test Valley Borough Council Consultation for Local Plan 2040 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) | Mr | First Name* | Mike |
| Surname* | Freeman | | |
| Organisation* (If responding on behalf of an organisation) | | | |

Please provide your email address below:

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Email Address* | ████████████████████ |
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Alternatively, if you don't have an email address please provide your postal address.

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| Address* | ████████████████████ | |
| ██████████ | | |
| ██████████ | Postcode | ██████████ |

If you are an agent or responding on behalf of another party, 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 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 |
|---|
| <p>Firstly, I applaud and fully support the focus given to Neighbourhood Plans throughout this document. Neighbourhood Plans are a very important aspect of Spatial Planning and require a great deal of dedication from the local community and the teams that produce them. They give a much more localised view of a particular area than is possible from the Council level. It is good to see how this document seeks to ensure these are included.</p> |

3.36

Settlement Hierarchy

In section 3.36 You requested feedback on whether the use of the 6 key facilities and levels of public services are appropriate to differentiate our rural settlement in the hierarchy.

1. I would strongly propose that Environment factors should also be taken into account in respect of this tiering process.

Just because an area has a number of services is not enough to determine the amount of development which is appropriate for a given area.

For example, I believe that Wellow has been incorrectly assigned to tier 2 without giving any consideration to the fact that it borders the New Forest National Park and part of the parish is actually in the National Park.

Further details specifically related to Wellow are provided in the section below.

2. Whilst the above comment regarding the environment is of far greater importance, I do think that it is good to see that a further secondary range of services are being taken into account in the criteria for tiering, albeit these will be difficult to realistically keep track of over time.

| Paragraph Ref | Specific Comments related to Wellow |
|---------------|--|
| 3.30 | <p>In the proposed settlement hierarchy I note that Wellow has been put in Tier 2. I would disagree strongly with this allocation on a number of grounds.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wellow borders the New Forest National Park and some of Wellow is inside the National Park. There has to be a restriction on development on this factor alone, therefore it is crucial that the environmental impact is taken into account as well as the services when selecting an appropriate tier. I recognise that the environment gets a mention in other parts of the document but I have to say that once the tier is set, the tiering will become the only real driving factor for housing numbers and the other important factors will become side issues. 2. The Wellow Emerging Neighbourhood Plan has published a comprehensive document (Wellow Parish Character Appraisal) describing the Parish and its environment in detail and it is clear from this alone that development in Wellow should be restricted. This document is available here Evidence Base – Wellow Neighbourhood Plan (wellownhp.org.uk) 3. Section 3.23 states that “the more sustainable settlements are located in the higher tiers as residents are able to access a greater range of services without the need to travel by car.” The assumption that a bus service, which in Wellow is poor, enables this, is simply not true for Wellow. Further information on the poor bus service is noted separately below. 4. Wellow has diverse settlements such as East and West Wellow and Canada Road which are poorly interconnected with no safe footpaths. This means that access to services between these areas is almost always made by car. Clearly this is cannot be classed as sustainable. 5. In summary, there is no solid basis that I can see why Wellow should be in the same tier as places like Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Stockbridge and Valley Park. Wellow is a Rural settlement on the edge of an important National Park and distinctly different from these more urban areas. <p>Please get the tiering right for Wellow now based on the full picture and not a limited set of services some of which are not sustainable in Wellow.</p> |

Please use next page if necessary

| Paragraph Ref | Specific Comments |
|---------------|---|
| 3.30 | <p data-bbox="395 286 1114 315">Specific facts about the Bus service in Wellow.</p> <p data-bbox="395 353 1249 423">I believe the assessment of the bus service in Wellow is inaccurate:</p> <p data-bbox="395 465 1385 719">There is an approximately two-hourly service along the A36 between Salisbury and Southampton up until mid-afternoon, then hourly until around 18.30. For those attempting to commute to work in Totton or Southampton, there is a bus at West Wellow at 07.19 but not another until 09.24. If commuting to Salisbury, there is a bus from West Wellow at 7.28, if you miss that the next bus is 09.47.</p> <p data-bbox="395 725 1385 902">The return service is worse being two-hourly until around 13.30 and then three hours plus wait until nearly 17.00 followed by two further buses at approximately hourly intervals. This service does not go near Southampton hospital and it does not serve Romsey at all.</p> <p data-bbox="395 945 1369 1234">The only service to Romsey from the main settlement areas is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings with two buses to Romsey and only one back two and a half hours after the first bus has arrived. The first bus to Romsey leaves Wellow at 9:38 and arrives at Romsey at 9:50. This service is prohibitive for commuting and for most people for other activities. As Wellow also has no doctor or dentist surgeries this service is totally inadequate for people need to attend these in Romsey.</p> <p data-bbox="395 1272 1377 1417">There is a bus along A27 at Shootash to and from Romsey which is only two-hourly from mid-morning until early afternoon but that requires a two-mile walk along roads with no path or pavement for most people in the Parish.</p> <p data-bbox="395 1456 1265 1525">Hardly the basis for commuting to work in Southampton, Salisbury, Romsey or indeed, anywhere.</p> <p data-bbox="395 1563 1345 1783">The Settlement Hierarchy Assessment paper in Table 3 shows Public Transport as “H” for Wellow indicating a high level service - “a high level includes a public transport service half hourly, hourly or includes a journey to and from key work locations”. In my view it should be “L” but it might just about rate as “M” but certainly not “H”.</p> |

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.