

North Baddesley Parish Council's

response to

Test Valley Borough Council's Draft local plan 2040

LOCAL PLAN 2040 - REGULATION 18, STAGE 2

Dear Planning Policy and Economic Development Service,

We believe that Test Valley Borough Council's (TVBC) methodology to development sites in recent years has been too much developer led through the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) with no proper planning policy on how they would like the borough to look and function. We understand that a SHELAA needs to take place, but there should be a vision of the areas that the council want to achieve. The council should then ask the land owners of the areas that they want to expand, not just blanket the whole borough.

The question should be, what area can be expanded without the villages on the borough borders just becoming part of a neighbouring town or city and while also preserving the local gaps between communities.

With the expansion of Southampton and Eastleigh over the years and TVBC letting construction up to the borders, we have already seen Rownhams and Nursling get swallowed up by Southampton, and Valley Park joined to Eastleigh. The plan should be to expand Andover and Stockbridge a lot more as they are large service centres and further away from the borders of major cities.

The expansion of Romsey is also getting too close to North Baddesley. This is why a local gap was made between the settlements, drawn up from the edge of our village to Abbey Park Industrial Estate. Planning applications between Highwood Lane and Halterworth Lane in recent years have been turned down, stating that the local gap to North Baddesley was being eroded. The Draft Local Plan (4.225 The local gap between Romsey and North Baddesley is proposed to be amended to reflect this proposed site. The amended local gap boundary to the east of the site will still preserve a gap.) is proposing to more than halve this gap by expanding Abbey Park Industrial Estate and we strongly object to this. Surely what is proposed will also more than erode the gap, it will make the gap nearly non-existent.

Reading through the Draft Local Plan we can see no mention of the vacant employment premises in the area, nor the industrial buildings that have yet to be built on brown field sites that already have planning permission. For example in North Baddesley, Draper Tools have yet to build their frontal office blocks and another large industrial building at the rear of their site. We do not see the need to build on a greenfield site next to the Draper Tools site that will be visually intrusive to the village.

The previous Local Plans have allowed for employment near to where the house building is taking place. If Velmore Farm is allowed to go ahead, the employment land should be allocated within walking distance from that site to comply with TVBC policies on climate change. Also, the main junctions in North Baddesley have been shown in recent studies to be working at overcapacity. This was before the new Hoe Lane estate was started and before the planned Tadburn Meadows estate is built. With this in mind, should yet another large housing estate be built near to this problem, further impacting these junctions and roads?

Thank you for reading our response,

North Baddesley Parish Council.