

Abbotts Ann Parish Council  
Test Valley Borough Local Plan Regulation 18 Stage 2 Consultation  
Representations

<p>Policy No. ENV4 Policy title: <b>Local Gaps</b></p>
<p>The Parish Council strongly supports the designation of the Abbotts Ann Local Gap which is strategically important in defining the edges of the Andover and Abbotts Ann settlements and in maintaining separation between them.</p> <p>The Stephenson Halliday Study ("<i>Test Valley Borough Council: Local Gaps Assessment Stephenson Halliday, 2023</i>") which provides a rationale for the designation of Local Gaps and a detailed examination of the nine Local Gaps in Test Valley concludes in relation to the Abbotts Ann Gap:</p> <p><i>"This Local Gap is particularly effective in separating the two settlements, noting in particular the openness of the arable landscape. Consideration should therefore be given to how the strong sense of separation between the settlements is maintained and potentially reinforced, with regard to any future pressures for development."</i></p> <p>We suggest that the Local Plan 2040 address the question of how the strong sense of separation be maintained and reinforced.</p>
<p>Policy No. HOU2 Policy title: <b>Community led development</b></p>
<p>The Parish Council welcomes the proposal to encourage community led development but opposes condition e) which we think will considerably limit the number of community led projects that will come forward. Condition e) requires a community led residential scheme to be predominantly affordable housing. "Predominantly" suggests that only a small minority of market homes would be permitted. This would severely limit the number of viable schemes and is contrary to the desire to integrate market and affordable homes. The numbers of affordable and market homes that are viable should be determined on a case by case basis taking into account evidence of need and the offered community benefit. It would be consistent with other parts of the Plan to require a minimum of affordable dwellings in accordance with Policy HOU1.</p> <p>In condition b) "existing" should be inserted before "S106 planning obligations-----" as in para. 5.373</p>