

## HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE DRAFT TEST VALLEY LOCAL PLAN 2040

### **Policy SS1 Settlement Hierarchy (pages 34-37 of the Draft Local Plan)**

TVBC have reviewed Houghton's position in the settlement hierarchy and propose to place it in Tier 4 and to remove the settlement policy boundary (see **point 3.43 on page 36**).

Consequently, any development requiring planning permission would be considered as being in the countryside. Housing development in the village would be limited the replacement dwellings, and exception sites for affordable housing and community city-led housing. **Houghton Parish Council fully supports placing Houghton in Tier 4 and removing the settlement boundary as is proposed.**

In the light of the proposal to place Houghton in Tier 4 and to remove the settlement policy boundary, inset map 24 appears confusing as there is a boundary marked in red 2. It would appear that this corresponds with the current boundary of the conservation area, but can this be clarified? Assuming Houghton is to be in Tier 4 should there be any marked boundary at all given that there would no longer be a settlement boundary. **Houghton Parish Council asks that Test Valley Planning ensure that the relevant inset maps in the Local Plan that relate to Houghton reflect the fact that Houghton would be in Tier 4 with no settlement boundary.**

### **Policy SS4 Rural Housing Requirement pages 45-47 and Policy SS5 Neighbourhood Development Plan Housing Requirement pages 47-49**

In assessing the housing requirement for a neighbourhood plan it is not clear the extent to which TVBC would take into account completions since the start of the plan period i.e. April 2020.

**Houghton Parish Council would like to see paragraphs 3.87-3.91 (pages 48-49) be amended such that TVBC's assessment of any housing for a review of a neighbourhood plan should take account of recent development post 2020.**

### **Policy ENV2 Development affecting heritage assets pages 155-162**

The policy include protection for non-designated heritage assets: buildings and features of local significance but not worthy of listed building status. However, the policy does not say how a building or feature could be classified as a non-designated heritage asset. **In order to make this aspect of the proposed Local Plan easier to apply, Houghton Parish Council requests that text be inserted that would enable local communities to identify such assets and for TVBC to publish guidance as to what criteria would need to be applied.**

### **Policy HOU2 Community Led Development (pages 204-207)**

Houghton Parish Council notes that this policy will replace Policy COM9 of the current local plan and is more onerous than the current policy. It would make it more challenging for a community to bring forward schemes as it requires parish councils to take the lead and only in exceptional circumstances can third parties such as a landowner or developer be the lead. **This could limit the potential of such schemes unless a parish council had the resources to undertake what would be required to satisfy the policy.**

### **Policy HOU5 Provision of Housing to Meet Our Needs (page 212)**

Houghton Parish Council notes that the policy follows the advice of the NPPF which says that a range of houses in terms of type size and tenure and the needs of different groups in the

community should be provided. The policy criteria includes 'size (including number of bedrooms) type and tenure ... needs of newly forming households and local evidence.' Given recent applications made for developments in Houghton where applications were made for buildings much larger than the number of bedrooms specified would suggest, **Houghton Parish Council supports this policy as a way of controlling the type and size of housing to be permitted in those areas in tiers with a settlement boundary (although Houghton should be in Tier 4 in which case this policy would not be relevant).**

### **Valued landscape**

The NPPF advise that local planning policies should, amongst many other things, protect and enhance valued landscapes, and there are examples of other authorities including policies in their local plans which enable valued landscapes to be identified and some have indeed identified such areas. TVBC do not have such a policy. Were the parish council in a review of its neighbourhood plan and wanted to include areas as valued landscapes or to put forward for inclusion in the local plan areas of value landscape there is no provision to do so. **Houghton Parish Council therefore requests that the Local Plan be changed to make it possible for valued landscapes to be identified and protected.**

### **Local Green Space**

The local plan does not include a policy to enable Local Green Spaces to be designated either via the local plan itself or via neighbourhood plans. It is recognised that the NPPF para 105 does make such a provision, but Houghton Parish Council considers that a policy in the local plan would be a positive step. **Houghton Parish Council therefore requests that a policy be included in the Local Plan to enable Local Green Spaces to be designated.**