

Comments on Draft Local Plan (2040) – Test Valley Borough Council

The intention is to review the Draft Local Plan and interactive map in more detail. This map is an excellent resource. It is suggested that during subsequent updates, all land submitted/offered for potential development and/or inclusion in the SHELAA, be also prominently highlighted. In this way, constructive debate will be suitably informed. Tabular listings do not inform as efficiently as graphical representation. Certainly, at draft discussion stage.

However, to commence the examination, the following is offered for Officer consideration. It is hoped that it will also inform local Councillor debate and representation.

Development along Cupernham Lane, including "Land North of Oxlease Meadows" - known locally as "The Horse Field".

Any proposed development, or **the offering of sites for any development**, housing or Business use, including use for Gypsy, Traveller or Showperson use, outside of the defined Settlement Boundary, particularly on land identified as Open Country side, **MUST** be resisted and **not included in the Draft Local Plan for consideration**. Regardless of any SHELAA shortfall across the Borough Council area, this part of Romsey has already seen expansive urban sprawl.

This urban sprawl to the North East of Romsey, has increased population considerably, and had an extremely detrimental effect on local infrastructure, traffic, noise, pollution, schools and the local NHS services.

Additionally, the affect on the local street-scene, with size, bulk and mass, has been extensive.

Increasing and extensive overlooking, particularly from multi-storey development, affects amenity value with significant loss, including noise and disturbance from piecemeal development and construction.

The loss of substantial structural timber is destroying swathes of wildlife habitat and natural breaks and corridors.

Brownfield sites are in abundance. These must be released for housing and the TVBC must consider compulsory purchase where suitable sites are identified, but resisted long-term by owners – purely for “land-banking” and excessive profit gain.

Lastly, amenity sites such as the Fishlake Meadows Reserve and SSSI, the historic Romsey Barge Canal, the River Test and its numerous chalk stream subsidiaries, must remain totally unaffected by urban blight and pollution. They are all an incredible amenity for us, the local community and visitors from far and wide, as well as the wildlife that these areas are home to. It is irreplaceable. It is our heritage and must be protected.

The Planning Inspectors Decision APP/C1760/W/22/3305787, notably on 21/02715/FULLS, should be carefully noted. It **MUST**, without fail, inform any consideration of any further land use and Development in this area. Not suitable for SHELAA.