

Planning Policy

From:
Sent: 10 September 2018 11:05
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Issues and options for the next local plan

Dear Sir

Issues and options for the next local plan

Aspirations: Resist sprawl

Protect wildlife sites, whether greenfield or brownfield

Wildlife corridors – more than just hedges

Places for recreation should be on a large scale, not just small play-parks, and not nature reserves/SINCs etc

Question 5: where is economic growth to take place? – housing requirement to support it depends on where it is.

5.9 Development should reduce the need to travel – ie be near where people want to go/work

Brownfield sites of wildlife value need to be distinguished from wildlife deserts. At present, greenfield sites can be exploited for gravel extraction, which then makes them into brownfield which can be built on. This isn't right. Sites are sometimes denuded of all vegetation before carrying out a biodiversity survey, which then finds, not surprisingly, that there is no wildlife value. There should be a policy to ensure that restoration of such sites is carried out

Small pockets of rural housing where there is a local need, and where they will help to sustain local schools, shops etc. But nowadays, is just as likely to increase online shopping.

Community led distribution enables parishes to grow as they want. Must depend on available facilities, not just proportionate distribution – schools, shops, public transport

5.26 Expressing the need for contingency sites may lead to more sites than needed.

Question 9: settlement boundaries – does not appear to work in practice. There have been several sites given consent since the last local plan which are outside the settlement boundary. Boundaries creep outwards because a site adjoins an existing one.

Affordable housing

Allowing extension of smaller houses leads to shortages of small, affordable homes for next generation

Self-build: More likely to want separate sites for small number or individual – probably windfall sites?

Question 15: There already seems to be a demand to build accommodation for the elderly, certainly in Romsey and surroundings. But they should perhaps have more sustainable transport options; eg Grove Place and Stanbridge Earls have no public transport.

Question 17: Yes, need to keep the choice of smaller dwellings

Question 18: housing density – must depend on what is appropriate for the location and surroundings.

5.45 Consider re-use of grey water when planning new developments

Question 21: rural worker – someone whose work is by definition in the countryside – agriculture, forestry, fishery, but also perhaps people running a campsite, working at a country pub, a village shop or a school.

Question 22: at present, gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites appear to need to pay no regard to the planning rules which apply to other residents. There must be proper consideration of potential impacts on SSSIs, SINCs and ancient woodland

Question 23: More space is needed for informal recreation, space to run around and have fun, not just sports pitches

Questions 24 and 25: Village shops may be losing out to online shopping. Need to encourage multiple uses, eg pubs (or even schools?) selling basic groceries; community hall or shop providing café, social facilities. Need to provide services for those in rural places without car/internet access/public transport

Enjoying Test Valley

The countryside is also a place of work for many, and also an important source of food security in an uncertain world. Needs of agriculture and of precious wildlife have to come before leisure uses. It's not just about landscape features, but even down to the grass verge with rare flora or habitat for butterflies.

Question 33 Local gaps: Need to define boundaries and stick to them, otherwise urban creep will cause coalescence.

Question 34: Areas of green space need to be joined up to make them worthwhile, either as wildlife corridors or for large scale recreation.

Air quality 7.8: Better and cheap public transport is key. Not everyone can cycle, and it is difficult with small children. Educate children in using public transport

Water supply

Need more innovative approaches on new developments. Every bathroom should have an overhead shower. Consider whether housing numbers should be decided by available water and not the other way round.

Energy efficiency: Industrial estates should have solar panels on roofs. Encourage developers to build in solar panels and plan layout of estates to maximise potential solar production.

Design: More thought needed on parking. Garages used as storage rather than for parking. Large family cars too big for standard parking spaces – creating access problems for other users and for emergency vehicles. Would provision of car barns/car ports ensure that they are used for cars and not storage areas?

Biodiversity: In its NPPF the government wants to see a net environmental gain as a result of development. Provision should be made for nesting birds and other animals in the form of nest boxes for house sparrows and swifts, bat boxes etc.

Sustainable drainage of new developments should include ponds etc to help newts, house martins etc as seen at Abbotswood.

There should be a link to the local BAP to make specific provision for those things which are meant to be conserved and protected.

Public open space - Questions 40 – 42: need large fun areas for dog walkers – obstacle courses, paddling areas etc? Open spaces should be larger rather than a small allocation for each small development. Recreational open space does NOT mean the use of SINC's for recreation. Need large open spaces which are not sensitive for wildlife.

7.29: Interconnected wildlife corridors need to be identified and written into the local plan.

Kind regards

↓

.
