



chilham parish council

serving chilham, old wives lees and shottenden

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June 2014

Dear Parishioner

Ashford Borough Council Local Plan 2030 – Site Submissions in the parish of Chilham

Ashford Borough Council (ABC) is currently reviewing its core strategy which sets out the strategic planning framework for development within the borough. The core strategy will be replaced by a new local plan which will set out the critical issues facing the borough as well as the development needs for housing employment community facilities and infrastructure over the plan period to 2030.

A key piece of evidence to support the preparation of the local plan is the strategic housing market assessment. This evidence will help ABC identify the number of new homes required within the borough over the plan period. To meet current and future needs, ABC will need to make sufficient land available through site allocations in order to accommodate any identified housing need. To assist in this process, a strategic housing and employment land availability assessment (SHELAA) is being undertaken which will make an assessment of land in order to identify land that is available, suitable and which has the potential to achieve housing development in the future.

As part of this process ABC undertook a call for sites across the whole borough last July to September asking landowners and developers to make the council aware of any land available for development. 168 site submissions were received during this formal consultation period and since then many more sites have been submitted. It is important to note that at this stage ABC has neither assessed any of these sites, nor made any decisions about them; this will form part of the next stage in the process. A map of the sites in our parish can be found on the back of the enclosed questionnaire.

An important part of the preparation of the local plan is to engage with stakeholders, in particular the local community. ABC will need to make some tough decisions when considering how to distribute development throughout the borough and community views will form an important part of this process.

A public meeting was held in St Mary's Church on 7th May and a number of parishioners put their names forward to participate in workshops. These parishioners are being contacted individually. Before this happens, we want to get your views on the 10 sites submitted in our parish to help with the selection process. There will be further consultation in the parish after the sites have been shortlisted by the borough council.

**We are holding an Open Exhibition which will give full details of all the sites on:
Tuesday 15th July at Chilham Village Hall from 3pm to 8pm.**

Members of Chilham Parish Council and officers from Ashford Borough Council will be there on the day to answer any questions you might have.

The attached questionnaire is for you to fill in and let us have your views on the sites, whether or not you are able to come to the Open Exhibition. If you cannot attend, please drop in your completed questionnaire in the box provided in Chilham Post Office before 5pm on Tuesday 15th July.

We look forward to seeing you at the Open Exhibition.

Chilham Parish Council

Parish Councillors: Aimee Brown; Ben Glancy; Derrick Kennett; Roy Lincoln;
Alan Millar; Alistair Ralph (Chairman); Alison Ranns; Graham Swan; Helen Tharp