

Parish Council Responses to Chiltern DC/ SB Local Plan – March 2016

Question 1

HEDNA - No comments.

Draft needs assessment - Analysis on Open Space needs to distinguish between urban-based and rural-based Open Spaces. Within rural Open Spaces need to consider several sub types: e.g.- Recreational (sports allotments, adventure etc); Historic:- (ancient and modern monuments), Commons and Village Greens, Woodlands (publicly accessible),

Question 2 - No Comments

Question 3 - No Comments

Question 4

The Council broadly agrees with the approach to developing the new Vision and Objectives; However, though Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council responded to the previous Chiltern District Local Plan we cannot be certain whether responses in this section were taken into account so they have been included again in this response by this Parish Council.

(Extracts from comments made by Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council to the aborted Chiltern District Local Plan Consultation. Q1 / Q3 refer to the Consultation Report Consultation).

Q.1

The Core Strategic Vision statements fall short in not reflecting the District Council's responsibilities regarding the unique Chilterns village settlements, the built and natural environment, and other important heritage sites.

The Parish Council suggests that the following vision statement should be reviewed. - "A place with attractive and vibrant town and village centres and an outstanding countryside" - The words 'attractive' and 'outstanding' fail to fully reflect the District Council's responsibilities; they omit 'protecting' and 'conserving' the rural environment from inappropriate development or land use.

The Vision Statements reflect how the District area is seen today, but do not acknowledge or provide for the rapid pace of change that the Chiltern District area will experience, particularly technological, demographic and social developments, over the next 20 years. (See also, comments under Q.3 which relate to the vision statement.)

Q.3

We consider the following to be some of the key challenges, issues and threats which will inevitably affect both people and places, and need to be referenced in the Local Plan: Threats to tranquillity due to increases in rail (HS2!) and aircraft noise from the proposed expansions to Luton and London airports. Other threats relate to climate change and disease epidemics impacting on woodland, environmental damage from flooding and pollution, and threats from the invasion of alien species on woodland and wildlife.

The Parish Council urges the District to 'future-scope' the Local Plan in the consultation phase, and include in its subsequent drafting strategies and mechanisms to 'future-proof' it.

The new Local Plan needs to recognise that as yet indefinable, local, national and global developments will emerge over the 20-year period to 2036 and will impact on the Chiltern District area in ways which are impossible to predict today (See also Q.1 above)

Question 4 - The Council is concerned about the implications of Option H. 'Review the scope for allowing limited infilling within villages and generally built up frontages within the Green Belt'.

Question 5 - Support in particular Options A,B,C,F, J and K.

Question 6 - The Council would not be in favour of Option H. Relaxation of the current limit to the current tightly proscribed infilling policies as had been previously suggested by the now aborted consultation by Chiltern District. This Council considers anything beyond that absolutely required by the NPPF is likely to impact negatively on the historic streetscape or centres of small Chiltern villages and hamlets. Similarly the Council does not support Option I. There is concern this could lead to the narrowing of the important natural gaps between large and smaller villages. Execution of both Options H and I would diminish the unique character of our distinctive Chiltern historical hamlets and open countryside.

Question 7 - Regarding Hertfordshire the Parish Council notes that there are substantial residential developments currently underway in Dacorum DC area, to the west of Berkhamsted and upto the boundary formed by the A41. There may be implications for the development and execution of the Chiltern Local Plan particularly if should such development expands further towards the mutual county boundary in this area.

Question 8 - No Comments

Question 9 - No Comments

Question 10 - No Comments

Question 11 - The Council supports the wider definition of Heritage Assets proposed. Heritage assets such as landscape features i.e. ancient woodland, commons, nature reserves, water courses: e.g. chalk streams, and ponds etc. Natural England established SSSIs, and Stewardship areas, are particularly relevant within the AONB. which contain unique features of local and national importance..

Question 12 - No Comments

Question 13 - No Comments

Question 14 - No Comments

Question 15 - No Comments

Question 16 - Whilst the Settlement Infrastructure Report focuses on towns and larger village settlements the implication of changes in infrastructure demands and requirement equally impact on smaller villages, hamlets farmland and the countryside in general. In some cases it would be possible to simply assign villages to their nearest or historically connected larger settlement. Secondly many of the villages outside the current scope of this study contain infrastructure assets, such as schools and these often support students from nearby larger settlements. Villages in areas bordering Hertfordshire are also connected to infrastructure based in Hertfordshire towns for example, doctors surgeries, schools and libraries.