

YOUR GREEN BELT STILL NEEDS YOU!
NEW ELMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION UNDERWAY
**HAVE YOUR SAY AGAIN, PROTECT OUR VILLAGE GREEN BELT
AND CHARACTER.**

RESPOND BY MIDNIGHT 9TH MARCH 2020

The Consultation Document can be found at

www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020

Use the online consultation document to add your comments - there are 12 questions

Pages 2 and 3 below provide your Parish Council perspectives on each question. You may wish to consider them in your own consultation response. It's up to you. Please have your say, whatever your view, on the future of our Village.

You do not have to answer every question and you do not have to fill in the questionnaire all at one time. You can go in, fill in parts, save and edit. There is no submit button. Whatever is in the questionnaire when the consultation closes will be included.

BACKGROUND AND OVERALL PURPOSE OF THIS LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

*Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) is now seeking views on 'Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for development management policies'.

*The main purpose of this consultation is to inform the setting of the vision and objectives and identify policies necessary to support them.

*Land allocations and designations to include housing /employment/ local green space will follow later.

OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

*Refers to previous consultations and their focus on housing – EBC notes the overwhelming support of residents to protect the Green Belt, the character of towns and villages, what makes areas special and the need to respond to climate change.

*EBC assert prior comments have been taken into account in preparing this consultation.

*This consultation sets out specific topics/main issues on which comments are sought:

- Key Issues / Challenges
- Shared Vision and Key Objectives
- Climate Change Issues
- Theme 1 - Natural Environment
- Theme 2 - Economy
- Theme 3 - Health & Well-Being

COMPLETING THE ONLINE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Please provide your own perspectives but you may wish to consider the following

1. We think the emerging key issues and challenges facing Elmbridge are.....

Q1. Are these key issues the right ones or are there any key issues that you think have been missed?

We suggest ADDING as key issues missed:

***Protecting our existing Green Belt whilst balancing need for housing and growth.**

***Protecting the rural/semi-rural character and setting of villages.**

***Providing appropriate/adaptable housing for all groups including the elderly and disabled.**

2. Forming a shared vision of Elmbridge in 2036.....

Q2. Do you agree with these ambitions? Is there anything else our vision should be aiming for?

We suggest IN ADDITION that the vision should be aiming for:

A borough which has protected its existing Green Belt, conserved its rural/semi-rural character, and retained the distinct identity of individual towns and villages, whilst providing for appropriate growth in a sustainable manner.

3. Key objectives for the Local Plan.

Q3. Are the objectives the right ones? Are there any objectives that you think we have missed?

We suggest ADDING as a key objective missed, a new objective

To protect the existing Green Belt and plan positively for its beneficial use, conserve the rural/historic character of the borough and the individual identity and setting of towns and villages.

4 & 5 Climate Change and Natural Environment

We suggest any comments on Climate Change are added under:

Theme 1 Protecting and enhancing our natural environment

Q4. Do you agree with the proposed policy directions: **We suggest Yes**

Q5. Do you have any other comments.....

Q5. Potential comments: Climate Change:

- The onus should be on developers/applicants to incorporate appropriate and necessary climate change measures.

- Strategic policies need to set out what will be required to deal with matters such as flooding, surface water, biodiversity gains, provision of walkable neighbourhoods, providing high quality walking/cycling links to existing or proposed facilities, integration with public transport.

- At the design stage, detailed policies are needed such as adaptable building design, materials, rainwater harvesting, renewable energy use,

Q5. Potential comments: Protecting and enhancing our natural environment

***Green and blue infrastructure:**

- Protect our existing Green Belt and plan positively to enhance its beneficial use such as opportunities to provide access, outdoor sport and recreation, retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity and improve damaged and derelict land.

***Improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions:**

- Every new home to have electric car charging point and assess measures to encourage these in existing homes.

COMPLETING THE ONLINE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

6 and 7 Theme 2 – Growing a prosperous economy

Q6. Do you agree with the proposed policy directions: **We suggest Yes**

Q7. Do you have any other comments.....

Q7. Potential Comments

**Employment land supply:*

Effectively balance the use of under- utilised employment land for housing, with the need to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of land/premises to provide for local business and to minimise need for local residents to commute outside the borough.

**Vibrant town and local centres for all.*

Strongly support that town/village centres are a good location for both employment and housing and that opportunities for mixed use should be optimised as far as possible.

8.and 9 Theme 3 – Ensuring health and well-being for all

Q8. Do you agree with the proposed policy directions: **We suggest Yes**

Q9. Do you have any other comments.....

This covers not only 'healthy' environments, but housing, design, connectivity and supporting infrastructure.

Q.9 Potential Comments:

**Excellently designed development and spaces:*

**-Use of word 'excellent' is welcomed - provide high quality designed places and spaces.
-All development should be supported by a design code, based on analysis of local character.**

-Smaller developments (under 5 dwellings) should at the least be supported by a design statement.

**Quality homes for all*

-Use of the words optimise/support/encourage should be replaced with 'require' where appropriate, e.g. require the delivery of affordable homes; require a range of housing to meet identified needs.

**Connectivity, movement and parking*

-More emphasis should be placed on achieving accessible, walkable neighbourhoods.

-Strongly support incorporation of minimum car and cycle parking standards for new development, to meet demand, be provided on site with designated visitor parking (as appropriate) so as not to increase on-street parking stress.

**Social and Community Infrastructure*

-Appropriate infrastructure should be identified prior to development approval with a plan to ensure that it is implemented at the same time as development takes place.

-10+ unit developments should be accompanied by an infrastructure report to assess impact, requirements and how the identified need will be supplied/funded.

Q10 ... do you have any further comments to make on this consultation or any of the previous consultations?

Potential Comments:

-Respect the overwhelming support to protect both the existing Green Belt and the character and setting of our towns and villages.

-Existing Core Strategy includes individual settlement policies/plans. The same approach is needed to ensure that the special qualities and unique requirements of each settlement are identified, respected and promoted as part of any new development.

Q.11 and Q.12 Answer Yes or No as to whether you responded to the 2016 (Q11) and 2019 (Q12) consultations.