



## ELMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN

SAVE OUR GREEN BELT AND VILLAGE CHARACTER

**URGENT – HAVE YOUR SAY!**

**Respond before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) have launched a **second consultation on their Local Plan** (how they will meet housing targets, develop our local area and protect our environment).

**You must respond by midnight, on 30th September 2019**

**COMPLETE IT NOW! QUICK LINKS...**

### **1. Register:**

<http://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/register>

### **2. Complete consultation:**

<http://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/consult.ti/LPOC/consultationHome>

(scroll down to the bottom of the above EBC webpage to the 'Respond' section)

Residents have asked us which of the five options (there is a further option, other) they should pick and that it would be helpful to have some guidance on possible responses to the consultation questions.

**You should pick an option based on your own views. Claygate Parish Council recommends choosing **OPTION 4** as the only option that protects OUR Green Belt and protects OUR Village character from overdevelopment.**

Pages 2 to 4 provides a consultation background, outlines the options, provides our perspective and our suggestions that you may wish to consider in your own consultation response. It's up to you.

**Please have your say, whatever your view, on the future of our Village!**

[www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# ELMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN

## PROTECT OUR VILLAGE CHARACTER AND GREEN BELT

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. What's the consultation about?

Elmbridge Council have housing targets to meet. Of the five options they have presented, **three** include releasing Green Belt land (2 of them include Green Belt around Claygate and a further one, which does not include Green Belt in Claygate, but does in neighbouring Hinchley Wood/Long Ditton which would impact Claygate).

#### 2. We need more housing. What's wrong with building on the Green Belt?

Green spaces are good for health and wellbeing and counter the impact of pollution. Making the case to release any part of the Green Belt for development opens the floodgates and puts all Green Belt land at risk in the future. **There is no going back. Once it is built on, it is gone forever.** The openness of Green Belt might make it an 'easy option' for development but it is our urban areas that have the most suitable infrastructure (schools, transport links, health services, etc). **We believe there are more sustainable alternatives to provide new homes, with less impact on our surroundings.**

#### 3. Which of the five options should I choose?

You should pick an option based on your own views. We believe that **Option 4** is the only option that doesn't impact the Green Belt or overdevelopment in the Urban Area. (Any area that is not defined as Green Belt is defined as Urban Area).

#### 4. Do I need to read the Consultation Document before I respond?

**Yes** – you need to understand the five options.

#### 5. Can I respond on behalf of others?

Responses are individual and everyone in your household can respond independently. In addition, a company or organisation can also respond – we strongly urge all Claygate organisations to submit a separate response subject to approval by their constitutions.

#### 6. Do you need to be over 18 to respond?

Under 18s are welcome to complete the consultation questionnaire if a parent signs the privacy note. Each individual will need to register separately.

#### 7. Do you need to live in Elmbridge to respond?

No. A new Local Plan will affect our open spaces, roads, school places, health services and much more, so whether you live in Elmbridge or in a neighbouring borough, you can have a say.

#### 8. Do I have to respond online?

**Yes.** The consultation is only available as an online form. If you do not have access to a computer, there are computers available to use in reception at the Council Offices, Civic Centre, Esher. If you do not have online access please call the Council on 01372 474 474 and ask them how you can participate. We understand each individual must have a separate email address.

#### 9. Can I get help completing the consultation questions?

There are eight questions, most straightforward and we have explained the questions on pages 3 and 4.

#### 10. The questionnaire limits responses to characters not words. How best to comment?

All answers to questions that you can enter into a box, limit the number of characters, which includes spaces and punctuation. We recommend not to worry about the grammar/ punctuation so long as your response is clear. You can attach a supplementary document at the end of the questionnaire with additional comments as you see fit.

**You do not have to fill in the questionnaire all at one time. You can go in, fill in parts, add other comments later, edit whatever you wish and you do not have to press a submit button. Whatever is in your questionnaire when the consultation closes will be included.**

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# ELMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN PROTECT OUR VILLAGE CHARACTER AND GREEN BELT

## COMPLETING THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

To begin, visit: <http://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/consult.ti/LPOC/consultationHome>  
(scroll down to the bottom of the above EBC webpage to the 'Respond Section')

For more details on answers, help and advice visit [www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk) or [www.claygategreenbelt.org](http://www.claygategreenbelt.org) set up by local residents, working in partnership with, but independent from the Parish Council.

**Q1. Have you read the Options Consultation Document?** Elmbridge wants to know you have read the consultation document. You must provide an answer to this: Yes or No

**Q2. Which area do you live in?** Elmbridge needs to know which area you live in. You must provide an answer to this question.

**Q3a. Place-making and the continued success of well designed, well-functioning places is fundamental to developing a growth strategy for the borough. What are the key characteristics that make your area a great place to live?**

(Maximum 500 characters NOT words).

A very important question – answer this as a priority, explaining what makes Claygate so special to you. Please provide your personal perspective but you might wish to consider any of the following:

- \* Peaceful village surrounded by Green Belt including farms, woodland and pasture distinct from the rest of Elmbridge.
- \* Rural nature, easy access to a wealth of open spaces
- \* Good coverage of woods, wide variety of trees
- \* Access to network of footpaths and bridleways
- \* Recreation ground, commons, allotments within the urban area
- \* Quality and character of design of existing housing stock
- \* Proportionate scale and height of buildings
- \* Two Conservation Areas where any development must be designed to enhance the heritage value
- \* Two distinct centres, 'The Parade' shopping area and the 'Old Village' located by The Green
- \* Strong community spirit with volunteers who support important community assets and local charities
- \* Good local schools
- \* Safe neighbourhood
- \* Opportunities for local employment through companies, shops, restaurants and pubs
- \* Rail, bus and road links

**Q3b. What changes would you like to see in the borough over the next 15 years?** (Maximum 500 characters NOT words)

A very important question – answer this as a priority by explaining what would make Elmbridge an even better place to live. You may wish to think about things that should be maintained, improved, introduced or prevented.

- \* Right housing in the right places – affordable housing near employment, schools, bus/train links, health facilities and shops
- \* Density of housing appropriate to the character of each settlement area
- \* Protection of Green Belt and increased green spaces and trees
- \* Quality infrastructure to support both existing and additional housing, especially local accessible primary and secondary schools places, better roads, enhanced youth provision and enhanced medical facilities
- \* Encouragement for High Street businesses, shops, cafes and restaurants
- \* Improved public transport
- \* Retention of off street parking facilities
- \* Noise levels reduced
- \* Improved air quality
- \* Greater support for looking after our environment

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# COMPLETING THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

## Q4a. Select the Option which you believe best suits your area

Overall Elmbridge housing target 9,345 homes over 15 years. Existing homes in Claygate 2,847, 5% of EBC. Option 1: Intensify urban area. No Green Belt release. Achieves target. Est. 362 new homes in Claygate +13%

Option 2: Optimise urban area, three areas of Green Belt release (non in Claygate but 900 potential homes on current Green Belt in Hinchley Wood/Long Ditton). Does not achieve target. Est.181 new homes in Claygate +6%

Option 3: Optimise urban area with large Green Belt release including around Claygate. Over target 16,300 new homes. Est. 1,261 new homes in Claygate +44%

Option 4: Optimise urban area, no Green Belt release. Does not achieve target. Est. 181 new homes +6%

Option 5: Optimise urban area with Green Belt release including around Claygate. Achieves target. Est.841 new homes in Claygate +30%

Other: Create your own Option

**We recommend Option 4. Should you choose this option you may consider the below**

**Please tell us why you have chosen this option (Maximum 600 characters NOT words)**

- \* Affordability issue to be addressed, all other Options imply greater scope for sprawl
- \* Most environmentally friendly option, taking no Green Belt land - least pollution and loss of habitats
- \* Options 3 and 5 would result in an inappropriate and disproportionate increase in the number of homes in Claygate by +44% and +30% respectively
- \* Lowest urbanisation option

## Q4b. Please give details of any alternative ways you think we could meet the government's ambitious housing target for Elmbridge of 623 new homes each year for the next 15 years. (Maximum 600 characters NOT words)

You do not need to complete this question but you many consider:

- \* Emphasis on smaller homes, that address both affordability and provides best use of land
- \* Encourage sub-division of larger dwellings
- \* Multi use spaces such as flats above shops and community facilities

## Q5. How do you think we should plan for the new homes we need in your area? Choices are:

\*Higher densities \*Green Belt release \* A mixture of higher densities and Green Belt release \*Other

Please indicate your preferred option. Ensure that you do not contradict your answer in Q4

**We recommend Other**

**Please provide any comments here (Maximum 500 characters Not Words)**

- \* Greater proportion of any new homes near frequent, reliable transport hubs
- \* No 'one-size-fits-all' density policy.
- \* Ensure that all brownfield land /existing underutilized land has been assessed
- \* Development to respect existing character

## Q6a. Are you aware of any planning issues that need to be addressed in our detailed day-to-day planning policies?

This question is asking if you know of any planning issue that may influence the type of homes to build and where to build them.

If you are unsure what 'planning issues' are see Q6b for examples. Ticking yes allows you to comment on 6b. **We recommend responding Yes.**

## Q6b. If yes, please specify which planning issues (Maximum 400 characters NOT words for the explanation)

• Density • Design / Character • Building heights • Parking • Conservation Areas • Historic features (e.g. listed buildings) • Sustainability / renewable energy • Flooding • Open spaces • Other

Please tick all issues that you feel need attention and then be selective in the short comments box. If you choose sustainability for example you could consider commenting that providing homes in existing urban areas produces lowest ecological footprint. Under Other you may consider adding Infrastructure and commenting new homes close to village centres provide better access to amenities and transport.

**For more help with this question visit [www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk) Local Plan tab. Question 6b**

## Q7. Do you have any comments to make in relation to this consultation?

Please give your own feedback on the consultation

## Q8. Did you respond to the previous Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation in 2016?

Indicate Yes or No as applicable to you

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