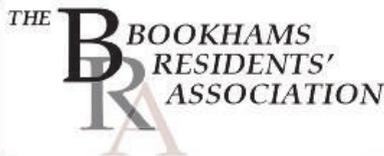


NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020



www.bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION: IMPACT ON BOOKHAM

Peter Seaward - BRA Chairman

Every 15 years Mole Valley District Council must produce a Local Plan as do every Council with Planning responsibilities. This plan has a major role in meeting the future needs and aspirations of people who want

to live, work and spend their leisure time in Mole Valley. The major outcomes are targeted at community wellbeing, the environment and prosperity. The plan itself is a large document available online and in paper form at Bookham Library. The heart of the plan is focused on the need to provide new dwellings.

The number of these are set by parameters from central Government reflecting the expected growth in population and housing needs of the District.

The last 15 year plan demanded that MVDC made sure that 188 dwellings were built every year whereas for this new period from 2018 to 2033 some 449 dwellings must be provided every year. A total of 6735. Mole Valley have added a contingency number to this and for the whole plan period suggest that 7827 dwellings are needed. (521 per annum).

There is not enough land available to accommodate all these dwellings within the existing built up areas through Mole Valley so 2200 will have to be constructed on land that is now classified as Green Field.

The Plan goes into considerable detail about where these dwellings might go and what infrastructure would be needed to support the increased numbers of people living here in the future. For Bookham five sites have been selected. The larger ones

When completing the Consultation please consider the impact on:

- ⇒ Education
- ⇒ Health services
- ⇒ Roads and Traffic
- ⇒ Drainage
- ⇒ Our village centre

are on land north west of Preston Farm behind and to the west of Little Bookham Street and a plot from the rear of the recreation ground on Lower Road to the Guildford Road to the south. The first plot would accommodate 260 dwellings and two gypsy and traveller site pitches.

The second 164 dwellings plus two gypsy and traveller pitches. The other three sites are smaller, one for eleven dwellings on the Guildford road next to Dobies Nursery; land for five dwellings in Maddox Park and although not in the Green Belt, Grove Corner where land and buildings are owned by MVDC.

The MVDC Draft Local Plan consultation is open until 23rd March. You may view the plan online and submit your views at futuremolevalley.org Print copies are available in Bookham library.

The BRA web site will be regularly updated during the consultation period to assist you:
www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Additionally, 300-350 houses will be built on the Howard of Effingham and Lodge Farm sites in Guildford Borough when the new HoE school is constructed.

The impact of the draft Local Plan on Bookham is significant. Please ensure you submit your views to the Consultation.

EDUCATION

BRA RECOMMENDS CHANGE TO HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM (HOE) ADMISSIONS CRITERIA SEPTEMBER 2021 CONSULTATION

David Cox

In accordance with requirements, the HoE consulted on the Criteria for Admissions for 2021 to which the has BRA responded.

These concerns centre around the capacity at the HoE during the period prior to additional places coming on stream with the new school. The recommendations were in two areas, as follows:

- 1) Tie Break Within Catchment**
Nearest Alternative School (NAS) (regardless if places available) i.e. Therfield k/a NAS tie break.

Recommendation: Change to those closest to the school having priority.

BRA commented:

"As most of our residents' school journeys are by foot or bicycle, we continue to have concerns about the use of the NAS tie break on procedural fairness, clarity and ethical grounds. Since this unusual tie break was introduced by two Surrey schools, many new parents are confused by it and even the admissions experts at Surrey CC have made administrative errors in applying the NAS tie break.

Furthermore, the areas of the catchment

that are favoured by the NAS tie break have had two new secondary schools open in addition to their existing two secondary schools that are marginally further away than The Howard...

With Climate Change declared an emergency at all levels of governance, and the importance of reducing carbon emissions now widely accepted, there is no justification for the continued operation of the NAS tie break.

In contrast, the area of the catchment that is disadvantaged by the current NAS tie break (i.e. the eastern end near Eastwick School) has only one alternative school nearby and the actual journeys to it are substantially longer than journeys to the HoE. The vast majority of children who will be displaced by NAS will have no alternative but to rely on vehicular transport.

Applying the NAS tie break means that children whose school journeys are currently carbon neutral would become carbon positive if they had to travel to any other school.

Given these changes in circumstance since the NAS Tie Break was introduced, we recommend that the Tie Break is changed to give priority to those closest to the school."

2) Catchment area

Recommendation: Review outer edges of North & North West of the catchment.

BRA commented:

Since the last Admissions consultation, there have been changes around the edges of the catchment area that mean a revision to the catchment area itself is needed to ensure "procedural fairness". With the introduction of new primary and secondary school provision, the catchment area needs to be contracted so that children who **already** have an enhanced priority at their closest secondary school

cannot be prioritised over children for whom the Howard is their closest school.

It is not procedurally fair to force children in some parts of the catchment into the "all other applicant" category of their Nearest Alternative School by giving a higher priority to other homes in the catchment for whom the Howard is **not** the closest school."

The BRA Education team will be monitoring HoE Admissions Criteria consultation and will report back in due course.

ENVIRONMENT

THE PLANTER HAS LANDED!

Frances Fancourt - BRA Tree Warden



A big "thanks" to The Vineries for planting up the new planter in Church Road. It's been a long haul getting it in place. After receiving the money from MVDC and permission from SCC, a black planter to

match the black and gold litter bins was ordered. As luck would have it, the bins were changed to green and gold and when the planter eventually arrived it was white! As there was now no possibility of matching anything, we've allowed it to stay. Chandlers Building Supplies very kindly moved the planter off the pallet and The Vineries have subsequently planted it up. We now have plants at either end of Bookham's shopping area helping to enhance the village shopping experience.

DO YOU WOMBLE?

Margaret Lawson
Litter Pick Co-ordinator

On the first Sunday of each month members of the BRA and volunteers meet at 11.00 am at the Lower Shott car park, to carry out a litter pick.

Whilst every effort is made to keep the village litter free, we are proposing an additional scheme where residents can "Go Wombling" on a road near to their home, periodically clearing litter.

If you would like to get involved and adopt a road, or part of a road, please get in touch with Margaret Lawson our Litter Pick Co-ordinator either via our message line 0300 030 9890 or via the BRA web site.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Michael Agius

Drainage

The BRA continues to try and resolve the villages' many historical drainage problems through the Bookham Flood Forum (BFF), where they meet with SCC Highways (SCC), Thames Water (TW), and Mole Valley District Council (MVDC). The last BFF meeting was held on 6th January 2020. The next will be on 6th April 2020.

The main drainage problem in the middle of the village remains the Lower Road between East Street and The Squareabout. Further investigations were carried out in November 2019 by SCC, who are currently analysing the information gathered and identifying feasible solutions. The results will be will be reported to the BFF in April.

With regard to the critical state of the foul and surface water drains in the west of the village, notably in Water Lane and Little Bookham Street, BRA continue to make representations to Guildford Borough Council and Thames Water with regard to the future routing of drainage from the new Howard of Effingham School and 300 plus houses proposed for the Effingham Lodge Farm site, to try and ensure that any outfall is not directed towards Bookham. In addition, with the issue of the draft MVDC draft Local Plan and major proposed developments in the west of the village at Preston Farm and Bookham Fields, BRA will be making their concerns with regard to drainage known to MVDC and Thames Water.

Highways

Under SCC's Project Horizon the reconstruction/resurfacing of Eastwick Drive is still scheduled to be carried out by April.

Most of SCC's highway works come under their Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) programme. This Financial Year a scheme has been included to improve pedestrian movements at the junction of Lower Road with Rectory Lane and Little Bookham Street. The scheme will provide for the removal of the existing speed bump on Lower Road west of the junction and construction of a raised table on the eastern arm of this junction, nearer to the mini roundabout at the end of the north side footway. This will make it safer for

pedestrians from LBS going towards The HoE school and Effingham.

The BRA will continue to press SCC for the need to improve Rectory Lane, to provide a footway on the east side of the road from The Grange south to the A246 and widening of the carriageway to a consistent width. However implementation is dependent on land being acquired from the fields east of the road, as well as a funding becoming available for construction. In the meantime discussions have been held with SCC and The Grange to improve safety at the crossing of Rectory Lane immediately north of The Grange entrance where the public footpath from Effingham to Bookham crosses. Funds for a study are being sought.

About The Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA).

The BRA is a voluntary membership organisation that is open to all residents and is independent of all political parties.

The purpose of the BRA is to provide a consultative link between residents, councillors, public authorities and utility services.

The BRA also co-ordinates voluntary services such as litter picking, Tree Wardens, High Street Christmas lights and hanging baskets.

Newsletters are delivered and annual subscriptions collected by your Road Steward. You may also join and pay online at the BRA web site.

**Membership Notification:
The BRA AGM will be held on 21st
May 2020 at the Old Barn Hall.**

Editor: Les Huett

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