

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN  
ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

**Consultation 02 May to 12 June 2017**

**RESPONSE FORM**

This response form should be used to make comments on the Local Plan Issues and Options consultation document.

**DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The information collected via this response form will be used by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to inform future stages of Local Plan preparation.

When you send us your response to this consultation, your contact details will be added to our consultation database and you will be kept informed of all future consultations on Planning Policy documents.

Please note that your responses will be published by the Borough Council, including on its website. The Council will publish names and associated responses but will not publish personal information such as telephone numbers, e-mails or private addresses.

<b>Your details (please give full contact details)</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Chantal Brooks
<b>Company/organisation (if relevant)</b>	Brenchley Parish Council
<b>Are you responding as an individual or as an agent on behalf of somebody else?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> As an individual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As an agent
<b>If you are an <u>agent</u>, please specify who you are representing</b>	Brenchley Parish Council
<b>Email address</b>	clerk@brenchleypc.org.uk
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**You will find details of where to return your completed forms on the next page**

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When you have completed this response form, please email it to:

[planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can post it to:

Planning Policy  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Royal Tunbridge Wells  
TN1 1RS

You can also make comments directly online via the Council's consultation portal at <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>

## SECTION 3: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

### Draft Vision

#### QUESTION 1

Do you agree with the new draft Vision for the borough?

Yes subject to comment in Q2

#### QUESTION 2

What suggestions do you have for improving or updating the draft Vision and relating it to 2033?

*Please write your comments here:*

Replace wording from “new development” to “special place” with the following “steps will be taken to protect and enhance the exceptional quality of the built natural and historic environment ensuring that such development as is permitted will comply with that ideal.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

### **QUESTION 3**

**What should we be aiming and aspiring to achieve and why?**

*Please write your comments here:*

As well as the stated aims and aspirations, the new Local Plan should seek to protect and enhance the ANOB so that it remains available to future generations and is protected as a tourist asset. The Borough currently seems to put the NPPF as its main objective, disregarding the high status that the NPPF itself puts on the AONB.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## Draft Strategic Objectives

### QUESTION 4

Do you think these are the right Objectives?

Yes subject to individual replies

### QUESTION 4a

If you answered No to Question 4, please explain why you don't think these are the right Objectives.

*Please write your comments here:*

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**QUESTION 5**

**Are there any amendments required or other Objectives that you think should be included?**

*Please write your comments here:*

Amend Objective 2 by addition of the words “especially that of the AONB”.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## SECTION 4: KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

### NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

#### QUESTION 6a

Have we identified the main environmental issues facing the borough?

Yes

#### QUESTION 6b

If No, what environmental issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### QUESTION 6c

Have we identified the main infrastructure issues facing the borough?

Yes - subject to 6d

### QUESTION 6d

If No, what infrastructure issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

Management of health and social care services need to be given a more specific priority, particularly given the ageing population.

Improvements to fibre optic broadband and mobile coverage should be central to any development planning.

Rail connections to London have not been addressed, particularly given the substantial increase in development along the London to Ashford and south east coastline.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## HOUSING

### QUESTION 6e

Have we identified the main housing issues facing the borough?

No

### QUESTION 6f

If No, what housing issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

The location of future development has not been sufficiently addressed in terms of where it is both needed and wanted. Nor has the question of the density of housing been addressed by the planners in any imaginative or original way to make best use of land in the urban areas where development is most needed.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## ECONOMY

### QUESTION 6g

Have we identified the main economic issues facing the borough?

No

### QUESTION 6h

If No, what economic issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

The provision of better tourist facilities and encouraging tourism to take advantage of the AONB and historic villages as well as the historic centre of Tunbridge Wells has not been explored.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## TRANSPORT AND PARKING

### QUESTION 6i

Have we identified the main transport and parking issues facing the borough?

Yes subject to the following

### QUESTION 6j

If No, what transport and parking issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

The railway issues have been insufficiently dealt with, we refer to this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transport-and-highways-policies/rail-action-plan-for-kent/kcc-response-to-the-public-consultation-on-the-new-south-eastern-rail-franchise-serf>

There are also substantial concerns about parking at the local railway stations and consideration should be given to decking. Parking within town centres could be addressed with the inclusion of park and ride in suitable locations. Perhaps consideration could be given to a tram service or similar as a solution to capacity. Consideration should be given to policing to address parking on pavements.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## LEISURE AND RECREATION

### QUESTION 6k

Have we identified the main leisure and recreation issues facing the borough?

Yes in general terms, see below

### QUESTION 6l

If No, what leisure and recreation issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

There is insufficient mention of cultural leisure pursuits.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## SUSTAINABILITY

### QUESTION 6m

Having regard to the prepared Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, have we identified the main sustainability issues facing the borough?

No

### QUESTION 6n

If No, what sustainability issues do you think are missing?

*Please write your comments here:*

In the same way that the AONB is a significant constraint to development, resources like water are similarly constraining.

We would support recycling in the east of the borough and to including in the waste contract the retention of the civic amenity vehicle service. In addition, the borough should investigate the use of single stream technology for recycling rather than the piecemeal approach that currently exists.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## SECTION 5: STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

### CROSS-BOUNDARY STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DUTY TO COOPERATE

#### QUESTION 7

Are there any specific cross-boundary planning issues that you think the Council should consider in preparing a new Local Plan?

Yes

#### QUESTION 7a

If Yes, what are the specific cross-boundary planning issues that you think the Council should consider in preparing the new Local Plan?

*Please write your comments here:*

Attention should be given to railway links and acute and secondary healthcare provision.

The Borough should engage in consultations on the impact of noise and pollution as a result of airport expansion.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## SETTLEMENT GROUPINGS

### QUESTION 8

Do you agree with the suggested groupings of settlements?

No

### QUESTION 8a

If No, what changes do you suggest to the groupings of settlements and why?

*Please write your comments here:*

The methodology is flawed to the extent that residents do not recognise the description of the villages as presented and that the presumption that any villages are capable of sustaining everyday life that seems to underpin this methodology is fanciful.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARIES

### QUESTION 9

Should the policy approach of defining settlement 'Limits to Built Development' continue in principle?

Yes

### QUESTION 9a

Should the defined Limits to Built Development as currently drawn be retained in their current form in order to maintain settlement patterns, or be removed to enable the delivery of suitable sites?

Should be retained

### QUESTION 9b

If the currently defined limits are to be reviewed/redrawn, what criteria do you think should be applied in redrawing the boundaries?

*Please write your comments here:*

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## STRATEGIC OPTIONS

### QUESTION 10

Please let us know your preferred option or combination of options in order of preference (where 1 is most preferred and 5 is least preferred). If you tick the 'A combination of options' box, please state your preferred combination of Options in Question 10a.

**A combination of options**

### QUESTION 10a

**If you prefer a combination of options, please state which ones.**

*Please write your preferred combination of options here:*

Option 1 to cover the short term whilst proposals for Option 4 are brought forward for the medium term with accepting in principle Option 5 for the long term.

**QUESTION 11**

**What views do you have about the possibility of a new settlement somewhere in the borough providing for future development needs?**

*Please write your comments here:*

Acceptance in principle of this Option (5) for the long term.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**QUESTION 11a**

**Where do you think a possible new settlement could be located?**

*Please write your comments here:*

Outside the AONB.

**QUESTION 12**

**Do you think we have considered and identified all reasonable options for accommodating future development growth within the borough?**

**No**

**QUESTION 12a**

**If No please set out what other options for accommodating future development growth within the borough you think should be considered.**

*Please write your comments here:*

We are not convinced that such substantial growth is in fact required within the Borough.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## SECTION 6: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

### QUESTION 13

**Which policies do you consider are suitable for continued use?**

*Please write your comments here:*

Those that protect the environment should remain.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

### QUESTION 14

**Which policies do you think may be out of date or no longer necessary?**

*Please write your comments here:*

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**QUESTION 15**

**Which policies do you think could be updated or amended, and how?**

*Please write your comments here:*

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**QUESTION 16**

**Considering the topic areas shown in the green box, are there any other topics that you think the new Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan should include?**

*Please write your comments here:*

Provision of water supply, as distinct from flooding, given that it is an area of high water stress.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**QUESTION 17**

**Are there any topics that you consider do not require any further detailed development management policies because there is sufficient coverage already in place, i.e. in national guidance (the NPPF)?**

*Please write your comments here:*

No, it should be a self-contained document capable of being stand alone and read as such.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**QUESTION 18**

**Are there any specific planning issues affecting the borough of Tunbridge Wells that you consider are not adequately covered by the NPPF or already referenced in this chapter and which you would like to see addressed in a policy?**

*Please write your comments here:*

As an area of AONB, within easy reach of London, it should be protected as an accessible area.

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

## GENERAL COMMENTS

### QUESTION 19

Are there any other planning and development matters that you think the new Local Plan should consider or cover that have not been mentioned in this Issues and Options document? You can also make any general comments here.

*Please write your comments here:*

*Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

**END OF QUESTIONS**