

## **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 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**Thank you Claygate BUT we need YOU to respond AGAIN to a new consultation!**

#### **SEPTEMBER 2019 CONSULTATION**

This Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) Local Plan consultation received 6,500+ responses - the largest for any EBC planning consultation.

#### **CLAYGATE'S OVERALL RESPONSE**

Claygate Parish Council (CPC) urged residents and local organisations to have their say, whatever their view, on the future of our Village - Claygate residents thank you! 1,222 of total consultation responses were from Claygate residents/organisations. Claygate accounted for an outstanding 19% of the total borough consultation responses.

#### **CLAYGATE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE SUMMARY**

**Claygate Parish Council strongly supported Option 4. No Green Belt release or urban over development**

In a detailed response, with a supporting document, we stated:

*'We believe options 1, 3 and 5 would decimate the character of Claygate. Intense overdevelopment in the urban area in option 1 and inappropriate and disproportionate increases in the number of homes in Claygate in options 3 and 5, +44% and +30% respectively. Option 4 is the most environmentally friendly option taking no Green Belt land with optimised development in the urban area. Claygate House is already likely to increase the number of dwellings by 5% independent of a new local plan'*

#### **OVERALL BOROUGH SUMMARY**

85% of borough respondents supported option 4 – no Green Belt release/ lower density urban development. **90% of Claygate respondents chose this option.** Other areas that strongly supported Option 4 (90%+) were Cobham, Hinchley Wood, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon and Thames Ditton/Long Ditton. (Go to [www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk) for an EBC summary and to view individual responses, including those from developers/agents).

Everyone across Elmbridge had an opportunity to participate in the September 2019 consultation. EBC acknowledge that it generated the biggest response to a planning consultation that they have ever received. **This was not a referendum, but we sincerely hope that EBC recognise the strong opinions expressed on protecting our existing Green Belt.**

#### **NEW CONSULTATION ENDS 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - HAVE YOUR SAY!**

EBC is now seeking views on a further Local Plan consultation, 'Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for development management policies 2020'.

In addition to housing, the Local Plan must address other issues: employment, town and village centres, approach to tackling climate change and conserving our environment, open spaces and heritage assets.

The consultation has five proposed objectives grouped into three key themes. There are many positive elements, but **THERE IS NO MENTION OF PROTECTING OUR EXISTING GREEN BELT IN ANY OF THE FIVE KEY OBJECTIVES.**

**There are now twelve questions in the consultation - most ask if the key issues are the right ones or if there are any key issues that have been missed. If you believe that protecting our existing Green Belt is important then you need to tell EBC, in your answers to the questions that this should be added as a specific objective.**

**There is more information on this current consultation on the Claygate Parish Council website – [www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk) under Local Plan 2020. On February 27<sup>th</sup> CPC will upload its proposed responses to the consultation.**

This is your last chance to have your say on our Green Belt, before the planned publication of a draft Local Plan, in September 2020 (Please note this is incorrectly stated in the Feb 2020 Courier as 2019). The consultation began on January 27<sup>th</sup> and ends at 11.59pm on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020. You can read the document at [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020) You will need to register to complete the consultation online. For those without internet access, hard copies are available to view at the Civic Centre in Esher and at borough libraries. EBC also state that hard copies of the comments form are available at borough libraries and upon request by calling 01372 474474.

**-Mark Sugden, Chair, Claygate Parish Council**