

Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Local Plan - easy guide to responding – Deadline: Sunday 28th February

If you've not had a chance yet to have your say by responding to DBC's Local Plan Consultation or you're finding it too hard to wade through the consultation documents here are some ideas that you can use (please change into your own words rather than just copy).

Background - Why we all need to have our say

The only way to get Dacorum to reconsider their Local Plan is if lots of Dacorum residents write and tell them the plan is not what residents want.

- The DBC Local plan proposes the building of **16,000 new homes** during the period 2020 - 2038 in the Dacorum Borough. That's 922 new houses every year for 18 years and over one and a half times the current building rate. This would result in loss of **850 hectares** (the equivalent of **1,214 football pitches**) of green belt land, part of which includes **Rectory Farm** in Kings Langley.
- The housing numbers in the plan are based on outdated data from 2014. Using more up to date information on housing need from 2018 would **half the number**.
- The plan as proposed **fails** to take full account of the opportunities to redevelop existing retail and commercial sites.
- Building on green belt land **fails** to address **the climate emergency** and the **impact on infrastructure**.

Action - Ideas for your response

- Tell DBC you do not agree that 16,000 houses should be in the plan and that they should be using up to date figures which would halve that number to around 8,000 houses.
- Tell them this pandemic has shown how important our local green spaces are and that our green belt land must be protected. Say you do not believe that inflated housing need is an exception circumstance for removing Dacorum's green belt.
- Tell them green belt land such as Rectory Farm helps protect the shape, size and character of towns and villages like Kings Langley and prevents them merging into one another
- Tell them the plan underestimates the potential for brownfield regeneration opportunities which have increased due to the pandemic with more people working from home
- Tell them their plan does little to address the improvements on infrastructure that will be needed to support 16,000 new houses
- Tell them we don't have enough water to supply all the extra houses. It is a fact that the extra water needed can only be extracted from the chalk aquifer which in turn will damage the borough's chalk rivers which are classified as priority habitats by the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

Please review the above and use it to help develop your response to the local plan. Your views need to be submitted by Sunday 28th February using one of the following:

By email to: responses@dacorum.gov.uk

By post to: Strategic Planning, Dacorum Borough Council. The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. HP1 1DN

Don't forget to include your name and address otherwise DBC may not consider your response.