

Burgess Hill Town Council

PRESS RELEASE

5 November 2020

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL RESPONDS TO GOVERNMENT PLANNING CONSULTATION

Burgess Hill Town Council has responded to the Government white paper 'Planning for the Future'. Their comments included the following:

Land Categories and Local Plans

The Council does not agree that general development management policies should be established nationally. A top-down approach removes any local input. The proposed 'growth' and 'renewal' areas mean open countryside would lose all protection;

A broader understanding of sustainable development and impact on the environment is needed. Requirements showing how sustainability would be achieved are needed, with a set of clear principles, eg. for transport, biodiversity, cycling routes, green spaces. Without these 'Sustainable development' becomes meaningless;

Delays are not due to the planning procedures, but to developers. Extending the test for supply from a 5 year land supply to 10 years also adds to the risk of disjointed development;

At the outline planning stage important decisions are made, ensuring the development is linked to local facilities such as schools, shops and leisure centres . Under the proposals, local people would lose their say at this stage of the development.

Energy Efficiency

Developers should be obliged to use renewable energy in new homes. The government should accelerate

the targets for net carbon neutrality and introduce the appropriate legislation to ensure buildings incorporate zero-carbon designs as standard;

Design guides and codes

These should not be centrally defined, but adaptable to each local area. What is needed is urban planners with local knowledge to achieve the best developments;

Developer Contributions

These should be able to be spent within the development or where the need is to be found within the local community, and fairly reflect the cost of delivering infrastructure rather than being a flat rate. A proportion of any levy should be earmarked for use by Town, Parish and Community Councils.

The Planning Committee also discussed a report on the white paper published by the **Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)** [<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/initial-white-paper-analysis>] and noted that the TCPA report strongly reflects many of the points raised in its own Working Group discussion.

The TCPA report highlights that: 'Streamlining' proposed in the white paper will marginalise the voice of local communities. The white paper does not give clear commitments to minimum safeguards for people and the environment. The government needs to think again and make time to fully examine the existing evidence about the real problems of the planning system.

ENDS

For more information please contact Emily Bryant, emily@burgesshill.gov.uk

Press Office
Burgess Hill Town Council
01444 247726



