



Gravesham Borough Council is carrying out a public consultation on their Local Plan Review. This includes their latest assessment of the volume of new housing required during the period 2011 to 2028, and their settlement strategy to determine where these new dwellings should be built.

A key issue is the increase in the volume of housing required. The current core strategy was based on a requirement for 6,170 additional dwellings between 2011 and 2028. However, the latest assessment has a headline figure of 8,035 dwellings, an increase of 30% over the period.

The population of Gravesham has grown by 11,000 since 2001. This is largely driven by natural change resulting from births exceeding deaths by 6,160, plus 6,900 from nett inward international migration, less 2,600 from nett domestic migration to other parts of the UK. Projecting these trends forward produces a growing population, and hence a larger requirement for new homes.

Given the latest increased housing assessment, the Borough Council considers that there is not enough land in the existing urban area and villages, and that 2,000 dwellings of these extra dwellings will need to be built on land that currently forms part of the Green Belt.

The consultation is seeking your views on a number of options, including:

- enlarging existing villages beyond their existing boundaries; this could include Shorne;
- merging villages to create enlarged settlements; this could include Higham;
- building on fields east of Thong Lane and south of Astra Drive;
- building north of Three Crutches up to the Wainscott Bypass;
- building north and east of Chalk;
- creating entirely new settlements.

Clearly these options could have a major impact on the Green Belt around Shorne, Thong, Shorne West, or Lower Shorne.

Representatives of Shorne Parish Council have met with other parishes and representatives of Gravesham Rural Residents Group, and public meetings were held at Istead Rise on 18th May 2018, Higham Memorial Hall on 30th May, and at Chalk Parish Hall on 5th June. Gravesham Rural Residents Group has produced a Guide to completing the consultation questionnaire to help those people who would like to maintain the Green Belt around Gravesham, and protect it from inappropriate development. Although not an official Shorne Parish Council document, a copy of the Guide can be found below.

If you would like to protect our environment, you should complete the online questionnaire at www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/local-plan-review. Paper copies of the consultation questionnaire can be obtained from Gravesham Gateway, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, or at any local library in the borough.

The consultation period has been extended until 5.00 pm on Wednesday 11 July 2018.