

West Berkshire Council's Preferred Housing Sites

What is happening?

West Berkshire Council (WBC) has developed a *Core Strategy* document which set out a housing requirement for the District of 'at least' 10,500 dwellings from 2006 to 2026. The Core Strategy allocates strategic development sites in Newbury (Newbury Racecourse and Sandford Park). It also sets out policies for the non-strategic housing sites.

Over the last two years WBC requested that landowners and developers suggest sites to meet the non-strategic housing need. The list of proposed sites was documented in the *Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment* (SHLAA). WBC evaluated all the proposed sites and then consulted with Parish Councils and other interested parties.

Following the consultation, West Berkshire Council has now produced a *Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document* (DPD) for West Berkshire. This document identifies its preferred list of sites for development.

WBC is now consulting with the public about this DPD. The Parish Council and You get to say what you think about the preferred sites. The consultation runs from 25 July to 12 September 2014.

What does this mean for our Parish?

Four housing sites have been chosen for our Parish:

- Land at Coley Farm, Stoney Lane (SHLAA site reference NEW045) - 75 Houses
- Land at Poplar Farm, Cold Ash (SHLAA site reference COL002) - 20 Houses
- St Gabriel's Farm, Cold Ash (SHLAA site reference COL006) - 6 Houses
- Land at Cold Ash Hill (SHLAA site reference COL011) - 6 Houses

What has the Parish Council done?

The Parish Council formed a working group. The working group comprised Parish Councillors, Cold Ash Community Partnership representatives and WBC Councillor Garth Simpson.

The working group looked in detail at the *Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment* (SHLAA). Studies were made of the local geology and environment, flooding, traffic patterns etc. There were 12 sites in our Parish that needed to be evaluated.

The working group then met with WBC planners and gave feedback for each of the SHLAA sites. You can see the feedback on the Parish Council Website:

http://www.coldash.org.uk/Cold_Ash/Housing_Sites.html

What is the Parish Council doing?

The Parish Council is studying the documents recently released by WBC and will be preparing feedback on them.

After today's public meeting your feedback will be collated, added to the existing data and submitted to WBC. The submission to WBC will be published on the Parish Council website.

Where can I find more information?

All documents are available to view online on WBC's website:

www.westberks.gov.uk/hsapreferreduptions

Hard copies are available for public inspection at West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD free of charge between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30am and 4.30pm on Fridays. They will also be available for inspection at all public libraries in the District during their normal opening hours.

How do I comment on the proposals?

- You can fill out the attached form and hand it in at today's meeting or send it to the Parish Clerk.

- You can give feedback on the proposals to WBC.

To send details to WBC, visit <http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/portal>

Alternatively, you can submit comments via email to planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk, by fax 01635 519 408; or by post to the Planning Policy Team, Planning and Countryside, West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD

- You can contact the Parish Clerk:

email: coldash.pc@btinternet.com

letter: The Clerk, CAPC, Parish Office, Hermitage Road, Cold Ash

We advise you to pass your comments to both the Parish Council *and* West Berkshire Council.

Cold Ash Parish Council

16/8/2014