

## Haslemere Town Council response to LPP2 consultation

### Background

A working party was set up to formulate a response to the draft LPP2 consultation being run by Waverley Borough Council, which expires at 11.59pm on Friday 27 January 2021

**Recommended:** the following response be agreed and submitted to WBC in relation to the LPP2 consultation

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Haslemere Town Council would like to commend Waverley Borough Council on the draft Local Plan Part 2, subject to the following comments:

### DM3: Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure

- Last summer Haslemere suffered huge disruptions to its water supply. It is acknowledged that it was a particularly dry one where household usage was at an all-time high because of the Covid-19 national lockdown.
- This issue is now being looked at by Thames Water after intervention by Town and Borough Councillors, and our local member of Parliament. Thames Water has a variety of steps it proposes to take in the short term which include lowering their system response triggers, rolling out smart meters to more residential homes and working with South East Water to supply Haslemere in due course. However, whilst welcome, such proposals will take time to implement.
- It is understood that when Thames Water is consulted on a new development, its response is driven predominantly by the impact of the development in question. Accordingly, Haslemere Town Council would like to see responses of this nature acknowledge and comment on the wider impact of a proposed development, bearing in mind the water supply and wastewater infrastructure constraints that exist.

### DS 01 Haslemere Key Site

- This proposal has been in existence for decades. It poses complex, if not insurmountable challenges, particularly as the site is vested in multiple owners. Haslemere Town Council would like Waverley Borough Council to seek up to date clarification from all parties with an interest in the site that redevelopment is feasible.

### Settlement boundary and DS 06 Red Court, Scotland Lane

- Haslemere Town Council has recently submitted its approved Neighbourhood Plan to Waverley Borough Council which sets out a settlement boundary reflecting the line of the main built-up area. This delineation seeks to protect land designated as an Area of Great

Landscape Value and excludes the Red Court site in accordance with feedback from the consultations.

- Our emerging neighbourhood plan contains fact-based reports as to why Haslemere Town Council reached its conclusion in respect of the settlement boundary. Over a period of 8 years the plan has been rigorously tested with expert advice and public consultations to ensure its validity.
- At our September 2020 Planning and Highways Committee meeting, the Town Council voted to object to development at this site as doing so would cause great harm to the natural environment and biodiversity contrary to paragraphs 172, 174 & 175 of the NPPF, and policy NE1 of the Local Plan Part 1;
- Any new development would be built on land designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value (given the same protection as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty under policy RE3 of Local Plan Part 1) contrary to paragraph 172 of the NPPF;
- Concerns were also raised the proposed development would not support sustainable transport and would only add to traffic congestion around the location. Walking distances to the centre of town were viewed as overly optimistic and did not consider the gradient of the hill on the walk back to the development from either the town centre or train station. This is contrary to paragraph 102 of the NPPF and ST1 of the Local Plan Part 1; and
- HTC feels that for WBC to include this site in the settlement boundary is contrary to WBCs own policies in both LPP1 and draft LPP2, and to its commitment to conserving biodiversity following its declaration of a climate emergency.