

# WHITEWATER VALLEY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

17 December 2015

## Hart District Local Plan 201—2032 consultation (Refined Options for delivering homes)

Hart District Council is preparing a local plan which will set out where new homes will be built in Hart between now and 2032.

This week (w/c 14th December) an eight page document is being posted to all Hart residents giving an overview of the consultation. You can respond online ([www.hart.gov.uk/local-plan-consultation](http://www.hart.gov.uk/local-plan-consultation)) or on paper (available from local libraries and parish offices) where copies of the consultation papers may also be read.

The consultation consists of three papers. The first offers three approaches from which to choose (this is called “Refined Options for Delivering New Homes” and runs to 55 pages). A second paper (“New Homes Site Booklet”) offers a list of all sites (apart from strategic sites) by parish, available for development, from which, where there exist two or more sites, residents can express a preference, though they must rate all sites within a parish, though the rating questions are themselves optional. The third and shortest paper (only 8 pages) is entitled “Draft Vision and Strategic Priorities”.

The purpose of this guidance is to identify the impact that Hart’s options may have upon the river and its valley, and to offer advice to those who wish to protect the valley.

Depending upon the outcome of this consultation, a new town at Winchfield may continue as a main plank of Hart DC’s emerging Local Plan next year. The potential impact of 5,000 houses said to be at Winchfield, but especially those either side of the A30 at Murrell Green, upon the river and its valley will be significant. One other site which will have a significant impact on the river and valley is in Odiham parish at North Warnborough / Greywell.

The following table (organised by parish down the valley) provides a concise picture of WVPS’ view of the sites in Hart’s consultation which we judge could affect the river and its valley.

Parish in the Whitewater Valley	Site Reference	Site name/location	Possible number of houses
Greywell		No sites proposed, but see Odiham below	
Odiham	COM004	Land at Deptford Lane and Adams Farm (between North Warnborough Street and Greywell, on the south side of the valley)	174
Hook, but shown as part of possible new settlement at Winchfield	126	Land at London Road, Murrell Green (north of London Road opposite Murrell Green business park on the eastern side of the valley)	450
Hook, but shown as part of possible new settlement at Winchfield	136	Western edge of Winchfield, but in Hook parish (to the east of Murrell Green; probably no direct effect on the valley?)	663
Hook but shown as part of possible new settlement at Winchfield	167	Land between M3 and railway line (western edge of the site is on the river bank; at least half the site is in the valley). The site is in two parts east and west of Totters Lane.	772

Hook, but shown as part of possible new settlement at Winchfield	169	Land at Totters Farm (south of the A30 and the Murrell Green business park, stretching almost as far south as the railway line, on the eastern side of the valley)	345
Rotherwick		No sites in the valley	
Hartley Wintney		No sites in the valley	
Mattingley		No sites at all proposed	
Heckfield		No sites in the valley	
Bramshill		No sites at all proposed	

If you wish to respond to the consultation, you have three main areas to consider:

- A. Questions 4 and 5 **MUST** be answered for your reply to be considered valid by Hart. They ask for your views upon how the housing numbers should be distributed. The three options are
- dispersed throughout towns and villages;
  - “strategic” green field expansion on the western edge of Hook and the western edge of Fleet at Elvetham Heath and Church Crookham;
  - focused growth on a new settlement at Winchfield (which runs into eastern Hook at Murrell Green and abuts Hartley Wintney).

If, on looking at the table above, you are not convinced of the benefits of a new town, then in question 4 you should rank Approach 3 **last**; and in question 5 you should rank Approach 4 **first** (this being the only one which excludes the Winchfield new town).

- B. Question 6 gives an opportunity to rate a number of sites in villages across Hart. You do not have to answer this, but if you do, you **MUST** rate all sites in a given town or village for your reply to be considered valid by Hart. However, we advise you not to rank sites, but you could instead answer Question 7 and say something along the lines of *I believe parishes should be allowed to decide which sites should be chosen to meet the numbers required of them by Hart*. Please say this in your own words! If you want to comment on any of the sites mentioned above which affect the river, you can also say whatever you want in the same space (Question 7). The Hook sites at Murrell Green listed in the table above are all in the proposed Winchfield new settlement, and the Odiham site “COM004” would see the open fields between Greywell and North Warnborough developed with houses and sports pitches.

- C. At the end of the form, there are un-numbered questions regarding “Visions and Priorities.”

Among the issues identified for the Local Plan to address are:

- 10 *The need for development to be safe from flooding and not to increase the risk of flooding.*
- 11 *The need to protect and enhance water quality and the ecological status of water bodies.*
- 12 *The need to protect and enhance biodiversity including the protection of sites designated for their ecological importance. This includes the need to ensure that new development does not adversely affect the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).*
- 13 *The need to protect and enhance the District’s green infrastructure.*
- 14 *The need to conserve and enhance the District’s heritage assets and their settings.*

The draft vision is:

*Draft Hart Vision 2032*

*In 2032 Hart will have remained an attractive, largely rural, area with thriving towns and villages and a variety of landscapes. Hart's residents will be enjoying an excellent quality of life in a high quality environment.*

*Hart will have played its role in meeting the development needs of its housing market and functional economic area. This includes meeting the need for affordable housing, accommodation for the elderly, and other forms of specialist housing.*

*Hart's economy will be thriving, making its contribution to the growth aspirations of the Enterprise M3 Local Economic Partnership. There will be new jobs and new business premises that meet local needs. In particular it will be a place where small businesses can flourish. It will have successful town and village centres, and a strong rural economy.*

*In meeting development needs, effective use will have been made of appropriate previously developed land so that greenfield development will have been limited to that identified as needed in the Local Plan. New developments will have been built to a high level of environmental and design standards, respecting local character and distinctiveness and providing measures to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The coalescence of settlements will have been avoided.*

*The district's social, physical and green infrastructure will have been enhanced to support the changing population. New schools will have been built so that local demand at both primary and secondary level is catered for. The quality and value of community and leisure facilities will also be maintained and enhanced. In particular a new leisure centre at Fleet in a country park setting, coupled with an improved leisure centre at Frogmore will provide an outstanding leisure offer.*

*The best of Hart's natural, built and heritage assets will have been protected, and where possible enhanced. These assets include the Thames Basin Heaths and other protected habitats, the chalk downland in the south west of Hart, riverine environments, Historic Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments. These features help define the distinctive character of Hart.*

In the last (un-numbered) section of the response form, the first two questions ask "... do you agree with the key issues identified ... ?" and "do you have any comments on the key issues?"

And the second pair of questions asks to what extent you agree with the draft vision and whether you have any comments on the Vision.

You may wish to point out, in response to either of these two pairs of questions that the level and location of the developments proposed will clearly make it very difficult to realise the vision.

Please do help us to make the valley's voice heard. The deadline is 15 January 2016.

## The Whitewater Valley Preservation Society

