



Established 1970
Member of NORA

Borough Local Plan 2013-2033 update

Current status

RBWM formally submitted the Borough Local Plan on 31 January to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination. The Plan and supporting documentation can be found at <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/blp>; this includes the Regulation 22 'Statement of Consultation' that details the representations made during the Regulation 19 consultation that ended last September 2017. The Plan submitted to DCLG is unchanged from the submission version of the Plan consulted on last June/September.

Local impact

All the sites in Bray identified for development remain. Of particular concern to residents of Oakley Green and Fifield because of their proximity are sites HA11 (land west of Windsor, north and south of the A308, including the two garden centres), HA18 (land between Windsor Road and Bray Lake) and HA23 (land west of Monkey Island Lane). Squires Garden centre has already announced it is to close in anticipation of the Plan being approved. The development of these, and other nearby sites, will put unacceptable pressure on the A308, which already suffers from serious traffic and pollution issues.

It also represents a major incursion into the local Green Belt, greatly reducing the 'Green Gap' between Windsor and Maidenhead that is so valued by residents (as evidenced during the consultation on the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan).

Next steps

An Inspector, Louise Phillips, has already been appointed. Her role is to assess whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, is legally compliant and meets the required tests of soundness. It is currently anticipated that Examination could commence in June, but pre-hearings could commence within 3 weeks. As required by the Planning Inspectorate, a Programme Officer has been appointed to manage the administrative and procedural matters of the examination process. The Officer acts as a liaison between the Council, the Inspector and participants in the Examination, serving as the first point of contact for anyone who has made representations during the Plan consultation stages and is therefore entitled to participate in the Examination. If you made representations on the Local Plan Publication version, the Programme Officer will contact you on behalf of the Inspector with further information.

A number of organisations and local residents concerned about the impact the proposed Borough Local Plan will have on our area formed the RBWM Residents Action Group ("RRAG") last year. This association is non-political and its sole aim is to reflect and support the aims and aspirations of the local communities across the Borough that will be impacted by this Plan. More information on RRAG, its activities and progress with the Plan can be found at www.rbwmresidentsactiongroup.co.uk. The examination process will be the last opportunity to challenge the Plan, and RRAG will be seeking funding from the local community for the legal and planning advice it will need.