

Planning & Development

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ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mrs J M Batt
Woodchurch Parish Council
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Tuesday 28th October 2014

Dear Chairman,

Local Plan to 2030 – Shortlisted Rural Sites

As you are aware, in 2013 the Council issued a “call for sites” where landowners were able to submit sites for us to consider for allocation in the new Local Plan to 2030. At the end of 2013 and earlier this year we carried out local consultation with Parish Councils and Community Forums to seek local views on these submitted sites.

The Council has now carried out an initial appraisal of housing sites in the rural areas submitted to us, based on a series of objective environmental and social criteria such as; how close the site is to local services such as GP’s, Schools and shops, and if the site is within any designated areas such as conservation areas, wildlife sites and flood zones. A full list of assessment criteria can be found on our website here:
<http://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan-to-2030>

This has resulted in a list of sites in various rural settlements in the Borough that *may* be appropriate to allocate for general demand housing development in the Local Plan and are therefore worthy of further more detailed assessment. A list of the ‘shortlisted’ sites in your Parish is attached to this letter for your information.

However, I must stress that these sites are not proposed to be a definitive list of Local Plan site allocations at this stage. The final list of proposed site allocations to be included in the new Local Plan will not be determined until next year as we still have a number of assessments to apply to the remaining sites.



If the PC wishes to carry out further public consultation on this 'shortlist' of sites in your Parish, please contact Carly Pettit to discuss the arrangements and we can assist you in setting up these events.

The complete Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) report containing all site assessments will be published alongside the draft Local Plan for formal consultation in summer 2015, at which time you will be invited to make formal comments.

Updates about the next steps and future consultation events will be included on our website page: <http://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan-to-2030>

Yours sincerely



Simon Cole
Planning Policy Manager



Woodchurch Shortlisted Sites

WS28	Land between 82 and 120 Front Road (existing WOOD1 Allocation)
WS27	Land to the south of Rectory Close
WS25&26&29	Lower Road sites
WS69	Bournes Field (Land to the north of Bournes Place)

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