



Haslemere South Residents Association is very supportive of most of the policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan reflects extensive public consultation and the majority views of the Haslemere community: 89% of whom expressed the wish to protect and



conserve our designated countryside – including the Longdene and Red Court AONB/AGLV sites – and 65% voted against allowing even small- scale developments building outside the settlement boundary. The Neighbourhood Plan proposes a settlement boundary which *excludes* these AONB/AGLV sites from being concreted over. We support the settlement boundary set out in Haslemere’s Plan as opposed to the boundary set out in the recent Waverley Borough Council’s draft Local Plan 2 which *include* these AONB/AGLV sites, thus pre-determining Red Court for development.

By using a site such as The Royal on A3, Haslemere’s Housing numbers can be met and also reducing the burden on Town sites

It’s important to note that as a community, our views have also been reflected in this Plan’s recommendation that brownfield sites be prioritised (an important consideration that would mean that, for example, the Royal School A3 site would be the obvious choice for a site allocation over biodiversity-rich Red Court). HSRA supports the Plan’s recommendation for higher densities in some parts of our town, and for smaller, more affordable homes, and welcome creative town planning that would help achieve this within our settlement boundary rather than building out into our green spaces and natural wildlife corridors.

With our environment and biodiversity under threat not just here but all over the Surrey area, there are other significant elements of the Neighbourhood Plan that HSRA supports. For instance, we support its recommendation for Biodiversity Net Gain for developments to be set at 20% (a policy approved by the Surrey Wildlife Trust), and the objectives for our town to meet its commitments under the climate and biodiversity emergency.

“Neighbourhood Plans give local communities the opportunity to decide for themselves what their town or village should look like and how it should develop and grow in the future.”

Another issue not directly addressed by the Plan, but which Members may wish to bring to the Inspector’s attention, is that the assurances made by Thames Water regarding future development in our town are not robust enough to address the serious water supply issues we have been experiencing and will require material improvement before any future large-scale housing is undertaken in Haslemere.

Please ensure you submit your support – in your own words - for the Neighbourhood Plan!

Comments can be made at www.waverley.gov.uk/HaslemereNP, via email to planningpolicy@waverley.gov.uk or by post to the Planning Policy Team, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HR