

RBWM Preferred Options Consultation Important Advice on how you Respond

Some of you will have been to one of the Residents Association events and heard Cllr Saunders explaining that he wants our help to defend the Green Belt. You can do this by providing evidence on particular sites in the consultation that differs from what the Borough have stated in the Edge of Settlement Analysis.

He has given us strong guidance that objections to particular sites will only be counted if they have evidence to back them up. Just saying, 'we object' will count for nothing.

He believes the Council officers have done good job but, if their profiles of the sites in the Edge of Settlement Analysis or elsewhere are missing important information, then we, on the ground, who know what's been happening recently, need to add in this evidence.

In particular their flood analysis was based on information dating several years ago, not the realities of the last month or two. If you have seen flooding on or near one of the sites note it down.

Similarly sewer manholes have been overflowing into the streets. Again if you have seen this happening on or near one of the sites, note it down.

To summarise, they will consider 'evidence' that falls into categories:

- 1. Grade 1 Agricultural Land**
- 2. High Scenic value**
- 3. High Ecological value**
- 4. High Archaeological value**

Other insurmountable problems for a developer, such as:

- Flooding - but not standing water as that can be cured by better drainage**
- Access onto the site e.g. narrow or congested roads.**
- Utility problems e.g. Thames water sewerage**

Other factors - impact on wider transport issues for example: existing congestion that can't be solved by road improvement schemes.

Ideally each of these points should be addressed on each of the proposed sites. Keep in mind that we need to provide solid reasons why a developer could not make an economic case for putting houses on the site.