

# Six weeks left to view council plan

## Royal Borough: Document available for residents' comments

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13/7/17

**SPEED READ:** Copies of the Borough Local Plan, a document looking at future development across the Royal Borough, are available for perusal and comment in parish offices, libraries and online until August 25.

THE next phase of the Borough Local Plan process has begun, which will allow residents to comment further on the development document.

Representations about the plan's legal and technical soundness can be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as part of the Regulation 19 stage.

The Borough Local Plan will guide development and infrastructure building for the next two decades. It will be available in buildings across the Royal Borough and online until Friday, August 25.

Cllr Derek Wilson (Con,

Oldfield), cabinet member for planning, said: "Over the next two months copies of the Borough Local Plan will be available across the borough for residents and stakeholders to inspect and scrutinise."

"This plan is a hugely important document that will help us to build a borough for everyone and protect the borough against opportunistic and inappropriate developments."

"After a lot of hard work over the last few years, Regulation 19 allows comments on the technical and legal

soundness of the plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State."

The public can comment on whether the Borough Local Plan meets the objectively assessed need for housing and employment land, and if it will achieve sustainable development.

Residents may also comment on whether the plan is the best strategy when compared with reasonable alternatives, if it will be deliverable over the plan's timeline, and if it is consistent with national planning policy.

After the Regulation 19 phase ends, valid representations

will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval, and a planning inspector will be appointed for the examination.

If the planning inspector agrees to the plan, it will go back to council for final approval and adoption.

A hard copy will be available in parish offices and every library in the borough, and residents wanting to take parts home can print them off.

A full copy can be provided to residents who show their Advantage Card at a library, where they can leave their contact details and return to collect it within 3-5 working days.

Visit [www3.rbwm.gov.uk/blp](http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/blp) to view ; comment on the plan

# CORRECT

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## Make sure your voice is heard on borough plan

ON MONDAY, June 19, at an extraordinary meeting of full council in front of about 300 residents (who weren't allowed to speak or ask questions), RBWM councillors considered whether to proceed with the latest Borough Local Plan (BLP). After more than two hours, a vote was taken and 33 councillors voted to proceed with the plan and 10 voted against. So, the motion was carried.

This was despite several neighbourhood plan groups, parish councils and residents' associations having sent an open letter to the leader of the council asking for a delay in proceeding with this plan so proper consultation and engagement could take place, and more than 1,700 residents having signed a petition with the same request.

And it was despite many parish councils and neighbourhood plan groups having submitted their concerns about this plan at some length during the previous consultation. But our councillors (or most of them) aren't listening.

The local plan is now published and is out for consultation. It was formally published by RBWM as the 'Borough Local Plan 2017 Submission Version' on Friday, June 30, and an eight-week consultation period has commenced under Regulation 19.

Representations to this consultation should be on whether it meets the four tests of soundness set out in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as well as on whether it is legally compliant and has also complied with the 'duty to cooperate' with neighbouring authorities.

The four tests of soundness relate to whether the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

In our view, this does NOT preclude readers from raising issues which they raised during the previous consultation (Regulation 18) if they believe those issues are still valid and have not been addressed in this draft, AND from commenting on items that are in this plan that were not in the previous version.

So, what happens next? The plan can be found on the council's website and the closing date for representations is 5pm, on Friday, August 25.

We are preparing some guidance notes for those who may wish to use them to assist in their submissions. These will be available from the week commencing July 24.

13/7/17 RBWM RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

From 17 JUL 17

Letter from

Sajid Javed

Ref 34/3065

THE RED  
UNDERLINING  
IN ABOVE  
ARTICLE IS  
WRONG

D - Pm m... ,

Thank you for your email of 4 July enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Andrew Cornie, of Old Pines, Holyport Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 2HA regarding procedures for consultation on emerging Local Plans, and specifically the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Local Plan.

I am able to clarify that there is no limitation at the second stage - (so-called Regulation 19) as to what topics of the plan residents may comment upon. It may be necessary to make the same comment at multiple points in plan preparation if it is felt that the point(s) raised have not been addressed (although these should have been considered by the Authority even if they haven't been taken forward). The Regulation 19 stage is the first opportunity that anyone would have to request involvement in the hearing sessions for the Local Plan and to make comments on the Plan that the authority would like to adopt.

#

17 July 2017

## No 'political games' behind panel

13/7/17

**MAIDENHEAD:** 'Stop wearing a tinfoil hat' is the message to anyone suggesting underhand political motives are influencing the make-up of Maidenhead's planning committee.

Cllr Simon Dudley (Con, Maidenhead Riverside), the leader of the council, was speaking about the last minute removal of a councillor from the panel ahead of a key vote.

Cllr Derek Sharp (Con, Furze Platt), pictured, found out just before a decision was due to be made on the plans for a Hindu community centre on Wednesday, July 5, that he had been pulled from the decision-making body.

"I didn't even know until I was going to vote, when I was told I wasn't on the panel," said Cllr Sharp.

Cllr Sharp's removal



seems to be a result of Cllr Claire Stretton's (Ind. Con, Boyn Hill) defection from the ruling Conservative group last month.

Under the council's political balance rules this means she was allowed to take a designated opposition seat on the panel.

This had previously been held by Cllr Sharp as no other opposition council-

lors had taken it, but meant he was automatically removed.

Cllr Dudley blamed a breakdown in communication on Cllr Sharp not being told ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Lynne Jones (Old Windsor Residents' Association, Old Windsor), leader of the council's opposition, agreed with Cllr Dudley's understanding of the rules.

Last month Cllr Sharp joined five other Conservative councillors in voting against the latest draft of the Borough Local Plan.

He has now been reinstated to the Panel at the expense of Cllr Paul Lion (Con, Boyn Hill).

Cllr Lion was not at the meeting on Wednesday, July 5, where Cllr Sharp spoke in support of the Hindu community centre would have backed it.