



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Civic Offices, London Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH
www.basingstoke.gov.uk | 01256 844844
customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk
Follow us on [@BasingstokeGov](#)

Marian Dain
Ecchinswell, Bishops Green and Sydmonton
Parish Council
Sent via email

1 June 2022

Dear Marian,

Request for information on indicative housing number for Ecchinswell, Bishops Green and Sydmonton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your email dated 16 March in relation to an indicative housing number for the neighbourhood plan. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing a formal response to your original email.

The planning policy team is pleased to hear that you are progressing the Ecchinswell, Bishops Green and Sydmonton Neighbourhood Plan (EBGSNP) and we will continue to support you through that process.

You have requested an indicative housing number in order to inform the neighbourhood plan process, an approach which is in line with paragraph 67 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As you will be aware, the council is at an early stage of updating its Local Plan, rolling the Plan forward to cover a period up to at least 2039. An evidence base is being compiled to inform Plan making and this has included a detailed Settlement Study which considers the relative sustainability of settlements in the borough and includes indicative future housing requirements for suitable settlements. This study specifies a figure of 15 homes for Bishops Green over the Plan period. Ecchinswell was also considered through this process and no housing requirement was identified. The study also proposes a new Settlement Policy Boundary (SPB) for Bishops Green and Ecchinswell.

Further details regarding the Settlement Study are available via the following link:
[Agenda for Economic, Planning and Housing Committee on Thursday, 6th January, 2022, 6.30 pm - Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council](#)

The council is currently due to consult upon the draft Local Plan Update later this year, in line with Regulation 18 of the relevant legislation. This would be the first statutory stage in the Local Plan process. It is currently proposed that the outcomes of the Settlement Study outlined above would be included within the draft Plan. However, the council is currently reviewing its approach to the consultation and these elements may change as the Plan develops.

Plan making is very much at its early stages and therefore holds no weight in planning terms at this time. The strategy outlined in the draft Plan will be subject to public consultation as part of the Local Plan Update process and the Examination in Public, and so may be amended in due course. However, the above information provides a direction of travel and represents the current thinking of the LPA in this regard. It is worthy of note that if the housing requirement for the settlements of Bishops Green and/or Ecchinswell were to change after the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was 'made' then that could be addressed via modifications to the NP as relevant.

In order for the parish to benefit from the protection afforded by paragraph 14 of the NPPF, all of the four criteria within that paragraph must be met. These relate to the age of the plan and include the need for the plan to allocate specific sites and policies to meet the identified need in Bishops Green (criterion a and b). In relation to the next two criterion (c and d), this information is published annually online, and more detailed information is available to view through the council's Authority Monitoring Report¹. It should be noted that this position may change and therefore the council's position may be different when the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.

At present:

- In relation to criterion c), I can confirm that the council is able to demonstrate a 4.5-year supply of deliverable housing sites.

In relation to d) regarding housing delivery, the Housing Delivery Test results were published in February 2022 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This confirmed that against the council's requirement to deliver 2195 new homes, 4001 new homes were delivered, which results in a 2021 measurement of 182%. The test was therefore passed and no consequences resulted.

I hope that the information set out above is of use to you and obviously please let me know if it would be helpful to discuss any of the above in more detail.

Yours Sincerely,

Joanne Brombley
Planning Policy Manager