

1. Consultation Information

The next public consultation on the Local Plan is expected to commence in mid May 2018. This will be for a period of 6 weeks. As a Regulation 19 consultation, it requires consultees to focus on matters of soundness and legal compliance of the Local Plan, however, this does not stop communities from engaging. It simply requires members of the public, statutory bodies, business representatives and special interest groups to focus on where they feel the Local Plan is/ is not justified, effective and in accordance with national policy and legislation.

We intend **as a minimum** to have a prescribed comment form which will assist consultees in making valid representations.

Further information will published in due course and we will let the Local Council's know when the arrangements are finalised.

2. Can comments be submitted now?

Not just yet. We are aware of some communities and individuals who want to submit their views to the Council now. Unfortunately however, for legal reasons this is not possible, if they are to also be classed as valid.

Comments received outside of the consultation's start and end dates cannot be included within the formal Local Plan process and, therefore are not able to be duly considered by the Planning Inspector.

Obviously, this does not stop people reading the Publication Local Plan, or its supporting evidence and prepare what they may like to submit as comments after mid-May 2018, but we would ask for your support in discouraging your residents from submitting responses to the Council before the consultation opens, as we are then obliged to notify them that their comments are invalid and we do not want this to discourage people from participating, just because of a legal technicality. We have no way of overcoming this legal issue and therefore ask for your cooperation in getting this important message across.

By all means, encourage your residents to register with us, which will mean they would get a personal notification of when the consultation starts – they can do this themselves by registering for an account on our Consultation Portal: <http://basildon-consult.limehouse.co.uk/common/register.jsp> .

If they have responded to a consultation previously, chances are they already have a consultation account with us; - these people can check whether this is the case by just entering their email address using "Login/Register" on the link above and click "Forgotten Password" at the top of the screen, and it will be emailed to their registered email address – from here they can make sure their details are up to date.

Those that do not have an email address/ prefer to be notified by post/ have trouble determining whether they have an account already can contact us to be added to the register/ for us to check it. This can be done by emailing planningpolicy@basildon.gov.uk. If they wish to register their details they need to include their name, address, post code and telephone number. Alternatively, they can call 01268 208045 with this information and a member of the team will add them to the register/ write to the team at Planning Policy Team, Basildon Borough Council, The Basildon Centre, St. Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL.

3. What happens to comments submitted to the consultation after mid May 2018?

Consultation responses received during the consultation will be collated by the Council, and then passed along with the Publication Local Plan and any supporting evidence documents to the appointed Planning Inspector for examination.

The independently appointed Inspector will spend a period of time considering those consultation responses and the submitted plan and evidence. They will then call an Examination in Public, where a series of round table discussions will be held locally on matters where objections have been made. These are held in public, but exact details of dates and locations cannot be confirmed yet. Inspectors may invite objectors to participate in these round table discussions. Who gets invited is a matter for the Planning Inspector, not Basildon Borough Council.