

## Consultation on the Revised Local Plan due in February

Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) has passed a revised Local Plan which is due to go out for public consultation over a six-week period starting in February.

### Background

The Council's original plan, back in January 2019, threatened the deletion of green belt at 14 sites across the borough. These included two sites in Duffield, where 245 houses were to be built. The proposed number of new houses would have increased the village population by around a thousand – a 20% increase on the present figure – and would have put considerable pressure on our schools, doctors' surgeries and already congested roads, as well as destroying forever our green space, public footpaths, and wildlife habitats, not to mention valuable farmland. This Plan was abandoned due to considerable public opposition led by the Save Duffield Green Belt (SDGB) group and other organisations.

### Is there still a threat to our green belt?

The news initially looks positive. The latest version of the Local Plan does not include any areas of green belt and AVBC claims it has sufficient sites to more than meet its housing requirement of 6,564 homes over the plan period (2022-2040). While no specific Duffield sites are mentioned, the housing numbers methodology includes a 'windfall' component, which means Duffield would be expected to provide a quota of homes by 2040. Windfall sites typically comprise previously-developed or infill sites.

We know from past consultations, that developers outside the borough have been lobbying for the right to develop the green belt sites designated in the 2019 Local Plan, so there is a strong possibility that they could be reinstated at a later stage of the review and approval process. Furthermore, other sites may have to be found in the Borough if Amber Valley is required to meet more of Derby City's housing need than it has currently allowed for – Derby City has still not declared what its unmet needs are.

### What are the next steps?

The new timetable for the process is now:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| • Publication of the Pre-Submission Local plan              | February 2024  |
| • Submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State    | April 2024     |
| • Examination of the submitted Local Plan begins            | April 2024     |
| • Inspector's Report  | September 2024 |
| • Publication of and consultation on the Main Modifications | October 2024   |
| • Adoption  | March 2025     |

At the time of going to press, AVBC had still not announced the Consultation arrangements, so we are unable to advise you on how it will work. However, SDGB will keep everyone updated. We will analyse the plan in detail, respond to the consultation and provide input to the planning inspector. You can rest assured we will put forward a robust defence of the green belt for the benefit of the village.

### How can you help?

It is crucial that the whole village is prepared to hold local politicians and the Council to account. We urge all residents to put forward their views as part of the consultation process when it becomes available. You can view the Local Plan documents presented to the Full Council meeting by going to the website below: select the year 2023, scroll down to December and click on to 'Full Council'. The documents are under agenda item 11.

<https://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council/committees-and-meetings/>

If anyone would like to join the Save Duffield Green Belt team and has experience in social media or public relations/campaign management, we would be delighted to welcome you. By sharing the workload, we can deliver a more effective response to the local plan.

If you can help in any way, email us at [saveduffieldgreenbelt@gmail.com](mailto:saveduffieldgreenbelt@gmail.com) and we can arrange an informal chat. Go to our website at <https://saveduffieldgreenbelt.com/> for more information or to join our mailing list.

**Let's act now, together, to prevent the needless destruction of our countryside and save the beautiful green spaces around the village for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.**

