

NOTES FROM **Basingstoke Area Sustainability** MEETING ON 17th December

Attending

Lucy Martins BDBC
Robyn Kelly BDBC
Tony Flahive, Tadley
Linda Wain, Oakley
Barbara Bedford, Oakley
Alan Cox Ashmansworth
Alison Zarecky, Overton
Richard Carrow Burghclere

RK

Current Local Plan was adopted in May 2016. This forms the statutory development plan and is used for the determination of planning applications in the borough alongside neighbourhood plans where they have been made.

The current local plan:

- Requires development to consider opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy on the allocated sites (Policy SS3). Where site-specific opportunities are present (for example, where there is the potential for district heating using the waste heat from the incinerator at East of Basingstoke), the policy requires these to be explored;
- Provides a broadly supportive framework for commercial renewable energy generation, subject to their specific impacts (Policy EM8); and
- Seeks to minimise water use in residential and commercial buildings (Policy EM9).

The council has also adopted a Design and Sustainability SPD (August 2018), which encourages sustainable design, for example through maximising opportunities for passive solar gain, and encourages renewable energy and reduced water use.

There are also extensive permitted development rights that allow householders to fit micro-renewables (such as photovoltaics) to their properties without the need for planning permission.

The review of the Local Plan provides an opportunity to go beyond the current approach, should that be justified. Timetable and key stages in the production of the Local Plan Update: [Local Development Scheme \(basingstoke.gov.uk\)](http://basingstoke.gov.uk)

Council's Climate Emergency was declared sometime after the adoption of the Local Plan but an aim of the Climate Emergency is to "undertake a Local

Plan review where the Borough proposes policies for adoption in all areas that will drive zero carbon and sustainable development in Basingstoke & Deane.” Work on the review of the local plan is already underway.

Council published its Issues and Options consultation in September 2020. This is a high level and non-statutory consultation that focuses on the scope of the update, setting out initial key issues and options for consideration. Provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to influence the plan at an early stage. The main purpose of the consultation is to ensure that the council has identified the right issues and that all suitable options in terms of planning for and accommodating change are considered.

[Issues and Options Consultation \(basingstoke.gov.uk\)](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/Issues-and-Options-Consultation)

A number of options were considered in relation to Climate Change (Chapter 5) and the council are currently reviewing the comments received and will be publishing high level results of consultation in March/April 2021 and it will use to inform a draft plan, currently expected in December 2021.

- Councils are currently limited in what can be required in terms of energy standards for new homes.
 - National planning guidance (PPG) allows Local Plans to set energy performance standards for new housing or the adaptation of buildings to provide dwellings that are higher than the building regulations, but only up to the equivalent of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (This is approximately 20% above Building Regulations across the build mix).
 - After 2025, no new homes will be able to be connected to the gas network.
 - Government has recently consulted on a Future Homes Standard. This suggests more onerous standards being introduced through Building Regulations.
 - It is not clear when the results of the consultation and subsequent government legislation will be announced but this could affect the council’s ability to be ambitious.
 - The government has suggested that it may remove the ability of councils to set their own local requirements
- Unlike for housing standards, councils not limited in setting performance standards for commercial buildings.
 - Any requirements need to be viable and realistic.

Community Updates

LW after successful Green Week, Oakley are working with local church who plan to set up a Green Year and are preparing a green plan for this. BB looking to engage in Greening Campaign and looking at food waste

Tadley recently sent out a survey to residents on climate change

RC they have set up an environmental group but need more volunteers which they will be recruiting for.

Overton Toolkits almost complete. Waiting for input on energy one. Will be looking at fuel poverty in their area and how to target households. Local person has heat pump knowledge and will help share information on this.

Asked who to speak to at BDBC on EV charge points - LM suggested Emma Gover.

LM said she would send information on a Greening Campaign on line meeting. Also she will be retiring in the new year, leaving the council on 4th March. Her post will be filled but until then Sam will have a lot of work to cover, she suggested the communities continue these meetings independently asking Sam for information or good contacts on certain topics when required.

Next meeting 4 Feb