

Sevenoaks Local Plan – Current state of affairs

As you know, MX52 and MX53 were removed from the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. This version of the Plan will be sent to the Government's Planning Inspectorate. However, in this Reg 19 Plan SDC is only able to meet 70% of the housing target set by Government so the Planning Inspector may ask the Council to reconsider some of the sites which have been excluded from the Plan. That could include MX52/53.

NHE is working with Hartley and Fawkham Parish Councils to try and ensure that MX52/53 are not reinstated. To this end, and to put forward the strongest argument for not allowing any major developments in the wider local area, we will be meeting with senior representatives from SDC's Planning Policy Team in mid-April.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultations on the Reg 19 Local Plan and the proposed Ash development MX61, which ended on 3 February. You can read [all the responses](#) on SDC's website.

[NHE's informed and detailed response](#) was submitted on our behalf by our planning consultant Unsworth Planning. We particularly recommended that SDC should strengthen their policy on Green Belt development and suggested alternative wording about infrastructure provision and how it should be considered in the context of 'exceptional circumstances'. We also suggested they reinforce their reasons for removing MX52/53 from the Local Plan. We have asked to be involved in any discussion about these sites at the Examination in Public.

We are sure that you will also be interested to read the responses from our local parish councils:

- [Hartley](#)
- [Fawkham](#)
- [Ash-cum-Ridley](#)

Needless to say, [the developer also responded](#) at length to the consultation and re-submitted the 'Vision for Hartley'.

The Reg 19 Local Plan, which was approved by Cabinet at the end of last year, is due to be approved at the full Council meeting to be held on 26 March. This will then be sent to the Planning Inspectorate before the 2 May elections (probably at the end of April) together with a schedule of possible improvements and all responses made during both consultations (Reg 18 & 19).

Once an Inspector has been appointed a timetable will be set for the Examination in Public of the Local Plan. This is expected to take place later this year. NHE plan, subject to raising more funds, to be represented at this Examination which will be critical to whether MX52/53 stay out of the Plan. The battle is far from over and we will be looking for support from the community in the coming months.

NHE Committee 14/3/19