

PRESS RELEASE

CPRE Hertfordshire spokesperson available for interview

Dacorum Borough Council's proposed local plan threatens to destroy over 850 hectares of countryside.

At the end of November Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) published a proposed new local plan. The document entitled "Emerging strategy for growth 2020 – 2038" sets out the long-term strategy for development and growth in the borough, including details on the number of new homes to be built.

CPRE Hertfordshire is dismayed that the plan proposes building nearly 16,000 new homes in the Dacorum Borough. If implemented, these damaging proposals would result in the loss of a massive 850 hectares of Green Belt, the wider countryside and urban green space for development. This is the equivalent of 1,214 football pitches and would cause irreparable harm to the environment.

Green Belt land is threatened at Berkhamsted, Tring, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley, Bovingdon and Markyate.

The number of houses needed has been calculated using outdated data from 2014. Using more up to date information from 2018 would result in a housing need that is around half of that currently proposed in the plan.

While new affordable homes are undeniably needed the plan as proposed fails to take full account of the opportunities to redevelop existing retail and commercial sites in the borough.

The Council's growth strategy also fails to address the climate emergency and the impact on infrastructure.

CPRE Hertfordshire has appealed to the Council to reconsider the approach that they have taken in developing the plan. Instead of being developer led the plan should take an integrated approach that puts climate change, biodiversity, well-being and social inclusion at the centre of the plan

It is important that all residents of the borough have their say on the plan. Anyone who shares CPRE Hertfordshire's concern about the destruction of your countryside, should submit their comments to DBC before the 28th February deadline. It would also be a good idea to make your views known to your local councillor's and MPs.

Comments can be submitted to DBC by;

1. By post to: Strategic Planning, Dacorum Borough Council. The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. HP1 1DN

2. Or, by email to: responses@dacorum.gov.uk
3. Or, using the on-line [consultation portal](#)

Commenting on the proposed local plan “Emerging strategy for growth 2020 -2038” , Richard Bullen, Chairman of CPRE Hertfordshire, the countryside charity, said:

“We believe Dacorum Borough Council should develop a Local Plan using an integrated approach that puts climate change, biodiversity, well-being and social inclusion at the centre of the plan.

We believe that planning is crucial to empowering local communities and making sustainable, liveable places. Ensuring everyone has an affordable home that meets their needs is essential to that, both in town and country.

Equally, it is vital that new development is planned intelligently. Our countryside is precious and finite and urgently needs better management in the face of the climate and nature emergencies. Critical to this is that land is not lost to development unnecessarily. More new homes are undeniably needed and there is plenty of scope to use previously developed urban land (i.e., “brownfield”) to help address this need”

ENDS

Notes to editors

For further information or to interview a spokesperson, please contact

CPRE Hertfordshire office@cpreherts.org.uk

About CPRE Hertfordshire, the countryside charity

CPRE Hertfordshire is a local countryside charity. We work to promote, enhance and protect a beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone to value and enjoy. Founded in 1928 we are a grassroots organisation, with 1400 members and a team of 3 staff and a few dozen volunteers. CPRE Hertfordshire has a long history of campaigning against inappropriate development on Hertfordshire’s green spaces. We also work with local groups around the county, providing advice on how they can best protect the countryside near them.

More information about our response to the Dacorum Borough Councils Local Plan can be found in the two attachments and on our website at [CPRE Hertfordshire - Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan response](#)

