



# Winkfield Row Residents' Association Guide to making comments/objections to the Draft Local Plan

---

## 1. What is the point of making a comment on or objection to the draft Local Plan?

At the time of writing (March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018) we are in the public consultation phase of the local plan process. The Council have produced a draft plan and by law are obliged to consult with interested parties, including the residents of Bracknell Forest, to seek their opinions about it.

Bracknell Forest has two methods of consultation:

- They have put the Draft Local Plan on the internet. The plan together with all the ancillary documentation, can be viewed on the consultation page <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/draft-bracknell-forest-local-plan/consultations> This is a set of large documents, a guide to which can be found on the WRRRA site.
- They have mounted a series of 'manned exhibitions' designed to explain the basics of the plan. A list of these exhibitions is also given on the page linked above.

Participating in this consultation phase will be an opportunity for residents to demonstrate to the Council that they are both interested in and concerned about the development proposed in the Draft Plan. If residents do not comment or object to what is in the Draft Plan the Council will be likely to conclude, understandably, either that residents have no interest in the Plan or that they are entirely happy with what is proposed.

## 2. How do I make a comment/objection?

There are three main ways to register a comment or objection to the Draft Local Plan.

- The first is to fill out by hand the Draft Bracknell Forest Local Plan Response Form. This is a big green booklet, copies of which should have been available at the 'manned exhibitions' or are available from the Council at their offices. The booklet can be dropped in by hand or mailed to the Council

Development Plan Team  
Bracknell Forest Council  
Time Square  
Market Street  
Bracknell  
RG12 1JD

N.B. There is clearly no requirement to provide comments on all the many areas of the Local Plan listed in the booklet. Simply give your response to those sections of the Plan that are of concern to you.

Annoyingly, there is no index given to the response form to enable you to go directly to the sections in which you are interested. Nor is the form page numbered. Hint: Land at Winkfield Row 6.5 is on page 8 near the front of the document.

An online copy of the Response Form can also be seen on the Consultation Portal. It is the second consultation document listed, under the Draft Local Plan itself.

- You can send an email with your comment or objection to [development.plan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:development.plan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)
- You can respond online at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal/planning/](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal/planning/)

This site requires you to register before you can make a comment or objection (assuming you have not already done so in order to comment on a past planning issue). If you have already registered on the site you will need to log in in order to make your comment.

### 3. How do I make my comment or objection one that will be effective and taken into account?

This is a critical part of making a comment.

The first step is to ensure that your comment is linked either to the plan as a whole, or to the particular section of the plan to which you are referring. If you do not make it clear to which specific part of the Draft Local Plan your comment relates there is a danger it will not be looked at or will be discounted.

Your comment or objection should, ideally, be supported by evidence. This is a difficult area. The Council have laid great store by the fact that their Draft Plan is 'evidence based', that is there are facts that support the various proposals. They would like any comments or objections to be similarly supported.

This means that, to be considered valid, a comment or objection cannot be simply, 'I don't think they should build here', or 'there are already too many houses in this area'. To be considered as valid a comment needs to explain why the view is held and offer some facts in support. Thus, in the case above, if the person comment could demonstrate that a proposal would dramatically increase the housing density of a settlement (from x to y) and therefore make it out of character for that area, this would be viewed as more valid.

The difficulty for us as residents is that we lack both the time and resources to collect evidence able to counter that of the Plan. However, where it is possible to collect information, of any kind, it should be part of a comment. The more evidence offered and the better quality it is, the more likely the comment will be taken into account.

Another way to comment or object is if you think that the Plan either contains errors of fact (i.e. something that the Council is asserting is simply not the case), or that the Council have not done, or done inadequately, something which they claim to have done. Again, in both cases, the comment will be more powerful if the person making the comment is able to cite evidence in support of it.

#### 4. Any problems or difficulties in making a comment or objection.

Contact the WRRRA and we will do our best to help.

