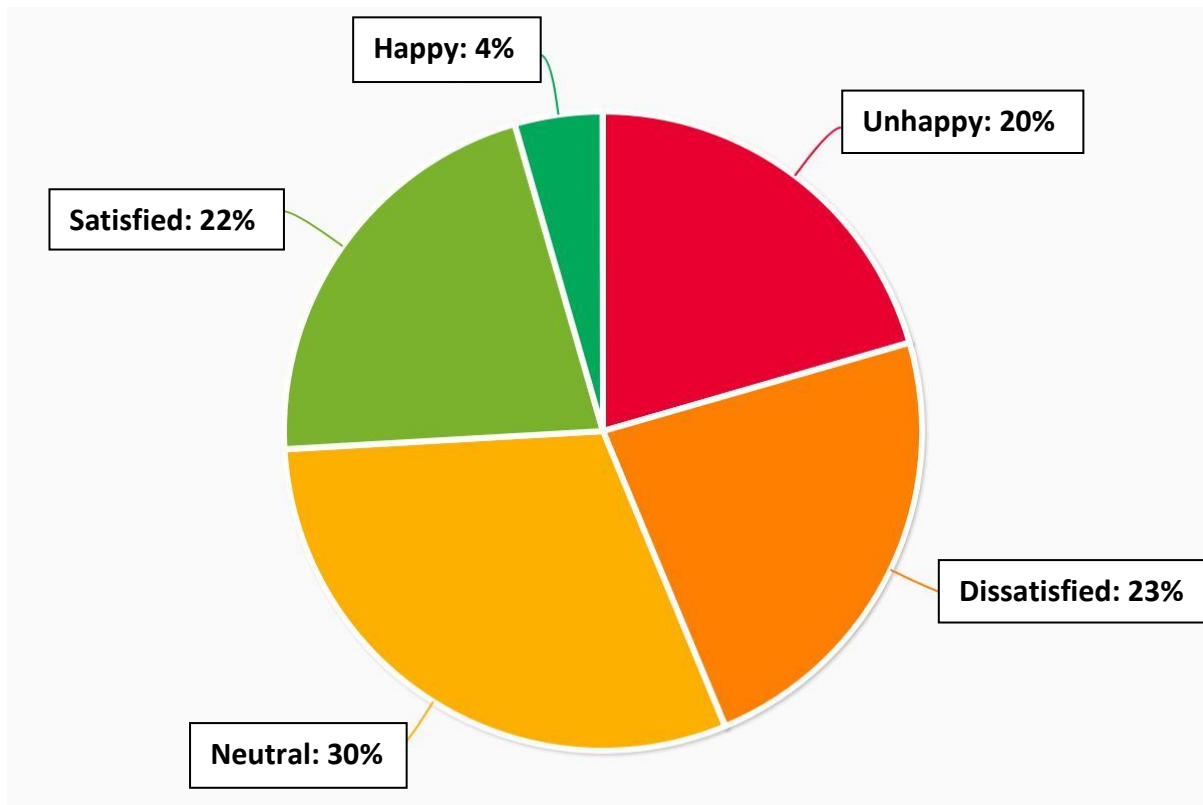


General Feedback

<https://ehdclocalplan.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/general-feedback/step1>

GEN1 How do you feel about this consultation?



113 people answered this question.

GEN2 Is there anything else you would like to tell us in response to this consultation?

Consultation system

For those unfamiliar with online consultation this will have been a difficult experience, and in many cases they will have stopped at the first section. Perhaps this explains the shockingly low response rates and should act as a wake-up call to EHDC in how they engage properly with the communities they are meant to serve.

Finally, the IT system used to collect the data has been rather clunky tedious and frustrating. This should be improved for the next consultation

Not user friendly probably so people will give up , I've started and stopped this process a few times and probably haven't filled in all the sections and because I'm doing this on my phone can't read what I have written so haven't fully said what I want in some sections

The free text boxes are very user unfriendly as you can only see the first line of the comments you type.

The text boxes show a single long line of text which is a serious problem. Many answers require several sentences to properly present a viewpoint on what are complex issues. As a result it is very difficult to keep track of what one has written. Looking back at my contributions I have noticed some typos which I would have picked up and correct if it had not been in a single long row of text. It would therefore benefit from a deeper text box and a capability to go back and edit ones errors - or changes in view occasioned by working on other sections.

I also found it difficult to track where I had got to. Like most, I guess, I had to return on several days to continue contributing.

There does not seem to be a way of reviewing submitted answers

This is the most obscured, complex and nearly useless consultation set-up I have ever come across. I regard myself as computer-literate, but found myself going round in circles and coming back to the same pages time and again. Most people would not have the patience to use this and do a response to all the issues (and those are only the issues YOU think are important- there are many others). I fear this consultation will result in most people just clicking off and leaving no information for EHDC to use. Waste of time and money, therefore. A simple questionnaire with free-form answer boxes would be so much more effective and simpler to use. I fear EHDC have been "taken for a ride" by using commonplace engine. it is AWFUL.

Difficult to review and edit

Unable to log in

Not easy to complete and review answers

Awareness of consultation

Very few neighbours seem to have heard of this consultation, was it advertised widely to all council tax payers?

Some sections of the community are 'turned off' anything to do with planning, feeling under siege and ignored, so unwilling to contribute to this consultation.

Much greater PR and Public Awareness: Often, I talked to residents that were unaware of the Local Plan process, its importance and the impact it could have on their daily lives. EHDC to consider a much broader PR campaign.

I believe that the consultation has not reached all the population of the District. A lot of the older residents are not users of FB or use electronic communication. They are silent and their opinions have been lost.

If you are not in planning, housing or sustainability you don't have the background to be able to understand the impact of your answers. Consideration needs to be given to seeking more diverse views.

Consultation content, questions and wording

The tick box system means that only options already considered by EHDC are put forward and there is no real space for discussion or the proposal of alternatives. It makes it easier for analysis of responses by EHDC but doesn't allow for novel input from residents. I would have liked to read and reply to other sections but time has run out.

Very difficult to follow this consultation. Really not sure what we are supposed to be discussing. Seems some areas have already been settled. Other areas seem very vague with little effort to focus. on the key questions like the environment we want to live in, a real conversation about utilising many brown field sites in the region that are not being redeveloped for new housing, community and sporting needs. The need for some intelligent discussions with government might be a good place to begin.

The structure was appropriate but too often there were no opportunities to add explanatory comments. Some questions appeared to be 'guided' to the answer you required, and in other cases 'none of the above' would have been useful additions. It is good that EHDC are consulting the public, however the meaningfulness of this process is questionable. The public are required to read several thousand pages and of background documents and supporting to be able to make informed comments. This is asking a lot of the public which makes it impenetrable. Based on the level of knowledge to be acquired through this process I am concerned will have had the stamina to see it through. I am also concerned about that not everybody would have given their feedback. Hence is this representative of the population of EH. With this in mind how will weight of this feedback be used in EHD decision making process.

Simplify and focus on a few key issues

Keep it Simple and to the Point: Much simpler and more targeted questions would generate a much better response (thereby creating solid, actionable data and a higher response rate). Provide clear base case data.

We are happy that we have been consulted in the finalisation of this Regulation 18 document. However, we consider that some questions were directed rather than open and gave us only limited scope to give a comprehensive reply.

The environment section was inadequate, it asked you to rank 4 different aspects relating to habitats/landscape, but I highly value each of the suggestions listed and didn't want to rank them. However, as there was no free text box associated with this question, then I was unable to make this comment. I also wanted to add a comment about so called biodiversity net gain. I currently think this is a joke. By adding a few bird/bat boxes and some holes in the fences for hedgehogs to a new housing development, does not mitigate for loss of greenfield/hedging/trees and it certainly doesn't result in a net gain!

Also there was no free text box in the Infrastructure section

The question CLIM2 contains two ideas which could be interpreted as conflicting "CLIM2 That every new development should have renewable energy provision and that any wind or solar development must be in keeping with the locality and its surroundings" My husband and I responded (we are doing this together in my name) that we AGREED because we strongly support the first part, but see a danger that the second part will be used to oppose new wind and solar infrastructure which is absolutely essential

What exactly is planned for specific local area. This consultation tells us absolutely nothing. Deliberately vague and impossible to navigate. Questions are woolly and where a longer answer is required, you cannot see what you've written! Just a box ticking exercise, where the concerns of residents will be ignored!

This is not the easiest of things to go through for a start. I feel that some areas are very indepth and the options at the end do not do it justice. I am not even sure if I have covered it all even now!

The questions raised in this consultation are very specific and leave little room for wider input. This is particularly important given the key issues raised in this consultation round and the implications for the Plan moving forward arising from the consultation.

The consultation includes very many closed questions and often a very narrow range of questions e.g. Environment.

Modules which are linked are dealt with individually

Questions seem to be slanted to a particular answer

Please use English spelling for your spell checker.

Whilst the website is very intuitive to use, the language and questions are going to be out of reach of most people.

(ENV1) - We consider that this is an inappropriate and irrelevant question to ask the public if the local plan consultation has ambition to restore nature. Protecting, expanding and connecting habitats in a functional Nature Recovery Network requires an ambitious and strategic policy for land use that cannot be ranked in this simplistic fashion. Likewise, conserving the character of the rural landscape does not directly relate to any of these other three measures which nullifies the usefulness of public responses to this question.

The consultation ticks a box, but I ask how effective is it. The online link tried at two separate stages at Alton Library and failed to make it work, hence an attachment on Word by email. Being in my very late 70s I am not the computer generation but I have eight decades of experience of life, 44 years of which I have lived in Alton in East Hants. Multiple choice questionnaires are easy to mark but very difficult to set objectively and I do wonder whether they inadvertently direct the person to the preferred choice. Also ranking issues in order often cannot be done because they are all equally important and we live in a multifactorial world whereas some government is single issue approach.

Consultation process

I want to express my major concerns with the Consultation process. However, I do appreciate that EHDC has given the residents of the district the opportunity to be involved and to give our views.

0.3% Response Rate Makes This Process Invalid: The low response rate, typically 50 to 250 responses per major section, from a population of almost 90,000 " gives a response rate of under 0.3%. For such an important activity this low response rate is not a valid sample size and will produce unsafe results.

Far Too Complex It's a Barrier to Public Participation: did EHDC understand the time it takes residents to complete the response many were taking three hours to read, digest and respond; some people just gave up.

Too Few Consultation Sessions: I felt there were not enough consultation sessions and that the level of detail available was insufficient.

There is an awful lot of information to have to take in and digest and provide answers and I just feel that the general public will get halfway through responding and then feel that they've had enough and not finish the consultation. Maybe if you could have bite-size pieces over a longer period of time throughout a year? Or shorter more precise questions of which is probably difficult for the subject it is covering

I do not think this consultation has been meaningful because you have given insufficient information for residents to make an informed decision e.g. " some houses " You do not quantify what you mean by " some". Is it less than 10 houses? less than 100? less than a 1000?

Did you make this as difficult as possible to intentionally put off responses!
I have experience of the planning system from both sides of the fence and can say that this consultation is labyrinthine, the online process is not a logical one and does not provide the user with updating markers as they progress through an unclear and not very logical system. If I was not versed in the terminology and aware of the weight that planners attach to the answers, then I would have given up. The question about CIL is particularly loaded to give a large site response that may or may not be used in context. Overall, a user unfriendly process and one that does not explain the status of the community in which one lives, when it comes understanding how the council's overview of the district has been formulated. One is left feeling that the consultation has been designed to deliver the answers the questioner wants to hear.

It is impossible to find the questionnaire to make replies to the consultation. I would say this makes the consultation invalid.

Younger people won't have time to do this so you will get biased views

For a start it does not allow me to vote, however I try, secondly this poll is one of the many things that is wrong in this country right now. Fundamentally what you are getting is a small focus group of fanatics voting simply because they are fanatical on a subject, the majority just stay silent! So you have the largest percentage voting that climate change is their number one priority, where as if you polled every resident you would almost certainly get a different result. Focus groups are dictating policy in this country and it is wrong.

The consultation is a good idea but a little over simplistic

There is a lot to read and understand. The way things have been presented suggest to me that you would like the residents to answer the very sort of questions that the EHDC planners have to when completing the local plan. Why not say this up front and make the residents "part of the team". It might be implied BUT it needed emphasising right from the start. The residents trying to understand and give their views need constant re-assurance that they are helping , doing the right thing and that they can do a section then come back to others later. Otherwise it can seem like a mountainous task and sadly that might lead to rejection.

I found the language and terminology used was unfamiliar and, therefore, it was difficult to feel in an informed position when answering the questions. Frequently I was being asked to give an opinion about the viability / preferability of an option as compared to *unspecified* alternatives - how is that a useful or helpful choice? Several of the questions felt leading as a result - how can I assess whether I agree with the route East Hampshire might want to follow (as outlined by E. Hants) if I don't know what the alternatives were. But to be honest, by the time I'd commented on 3 areas, I had slightly lost the will to live - over-complicated, time-consuming and frequently baffling. I don't know who wrote this consultation but it doesn't feel like it was done by anyone with knowledge of public engagement. Very disappointing all round!

Reading through makes me feel that EHDC have already made up their minds where new housing will go. The consultation is just a smokescreen. Very disappointed.

It is encouraging that this consultation has sought to look afresh at the challenges facing the District and has sought to proactively acknowledge these and explore how they can be addressed.

Overall, this is a good exercise.

Does this fully address and integrate into the EHDC bigger picture? I felt there were areas where more joined-up thinking is required.

Likely to be skewed as probably NIMBY driven

If a small fraction of the time/effort/money that has been put into providing this 'consultation' had been put into maintaining and managing the local plans at the correct level over the last twenty years we would not be in the developer driven chaotic situation we are today.

Taking account of consultation responses

When and how will we know our input has been of any value because as far as we can see it seems not to matter how many consultations we partake in, nothing changes and the heavy arm of the state controls everything

A gallant attempt to demonstrate an unbiased set of thoughts but in reality lets be clear that the responses you receive to this consultation will provide EHDC with political cover to do what they want over the next 20 years. As such there are many hidden issues contained within these questions which cannot be responded to with binary answers.

I only hope that this consultation was not just a Government box ticking exercise, and that EHDC is listening to the public, and willing to serve and represent their views, and not be subservient to developers' and landowners desires, but the actual genuine needs of the community, and in the locations that can actually support those needs.

I just get the sense that we are being made to believe that our opinions actually matter or will be taken into consideration, hopefully I am proven wrong. It is clear that many people are unhappy with the current treatment of our local areas. I can only hope that the council takes the views of its constituents seriously.

I like the idea of this consultation, but feel quite despondent about the likelihood of future council actions being able to reflect the high aspirations detailed, and not being governed by commercial interests.

More thought needs to be given to what local residents want and need especially when it comes to planning and infrastructure and less to the council's own preferences and those of big developers.

EHDC are always "consulting" but nothing seems to change much.

Suspicious of a Pointless exercise: It felt like this was just a paper exercise so that EHDC can say that residents were consulted and then re-publish the original 10 Large Development Sites re-ordered by political manoeuvrings.

How much notice does EHDC really take of these consultation exercises? Where is the evidence provided that consultees views have actually been taken into account, or is this simply a process to be followed?

Just another load of pie in the sky, the responses to which are pretty-well guaranteed to be ignored.

Proposed planning reform

Michael Gove MP has just announced potentially significant changes to the NPPF (currently in consultation) which will affect EH local planning decisions, especially regarding numbers. Will these changes make this consultation superfluous?

No mention of Michael Gove Changes to Legislation: The consultation was open whilst fundamental changes were announced by Rt Hon Michael Gove that would have a major impact on many aspects of the consultation process. This was not reflected in the consultation raising the prospect that every response is now already out-of-date.

I am fearful that this latest consultation will become out of date very quickly, following the recent announcements from Michael Gove, plus the fact that the National Planning Policy Framework document is currently being revised. Hopefully some of the changes in it will allow EHDC to reduce the numbers of houses it needs to build (and just focus on the needs of the local residents) and to stop building over yet more green fields, particularly around Alton and Four Marks which have both seen huge numbers of houses built there in the last few years.

Infrastructure

I don't know if EHDC has any influence but the repair of potholes is terrible: the repairs are slow and not done well: don't last long

Although large sites give an easier opportunity to obtain additional facilities, such large sites in semi-rural village locations are totally inappropriate, therefore unless a garden village type development can be built, (which would be the ideal) then they should be avoided at all costs. As long as CIL money is collected from all sites and then distributed appropriately/equitably and in a timely manner then that should meet the needs of the communities affected.

what happened to the cricket pitch in the original plans. i have asked this questiandy mr unhappy from horndean, on several times over the last few months. NO ANSWER. so who removed the cricket pitch i WANT AN ANSWER> thank you

Everywhere you state could needs to be changed to WILL. More action needs to be taken to provide infrastructure as promised years ago, and a complete halt should be enforced to stop anymore trees and green spaces being destroyed for the sake of money.

I would like to know why there are no entertainment facilities in Waterlooville such as cinemas, bowling alleys and arcade centres. This would encourage people to spend time and money in the town rather than taking it away. If it stops people travelling for entertainment this would be better for the environment. It would also provide employment opportunities and entertainment facilities for the youth. Currently it is very limited. What entertainment facilities are actually accessible and provided in Waterlooville for the towns inhabitants apart from a public swimming pool?

I am very concerned about the lack of public transport. I volunteer in Petersfield and the bus service is very poor. With the increase in housing there will be more cars on the road. At the moment the traffic is appalling and this can only get worse with more houses and most having at least two cars. We should be encouraged to use public transport and it just isn't available. I have written to the various bodies concerns and whilst I appreciate their problems this has to be addressed both on the climate front and on the infrastructure. When younger I did cycle but am now older, still contributing to society by my volunteering, as are most of my friends, and if the local bus service was better more of us older residents would not be in cars adding to the problems stated.

Most feel we already have more people/ housing than the existing infrastructure can handle, not just roads, but drains, schools, doctors, chemists etc. There are queues for everything now

Horizon Leisure Centres would like to see a focus on sport and leisure as one of the key themes, as it is a crossover area between other key themes. For example, a range of community health and fitness programmes and leisure centre facilities that are accessible and inclusive to all ages, abilities and backgrounds, contributes to healthy communities for their physical and mental wellbeing. Outdoor activities such as boot camps and health walks benefit from green areas and enable residents to use their leisure time in a welcoming environment. Increased population and housing require sport and leisure facilities as part of their infrastructure to lead healthier, happier lives. For example, Horizon is aiming to develop Waterlooville Leisure Centre to include all-weather pitches, modernised health and fitness facilities, and family play, to engage with local people to stay more active.

I would like to see much more support for and use of the Chase Hospital facility. It is in an ideal location with good bus and road access and plenty of parking, enabling physiotherapy, Xrays, consultations etc to be held an minimising travel costs for patients within the Lindford, Bordon Whitehill area. I note the recent 'improved' Xray access at Petersfield - some 20 miles away !

Extremely unconvinced that planning process can actually help with the things that are important to people. As an example how are EHDC actually going to recruit and deploy GPs- not your job I know, but how are you going to actually make sure that these things actually happen?

There is not enough focus on the infrastructure that is not provided by the EHDC. We currently have huge issues with sewage disposal and the local council needs to take responsibility for ensuring that the water companies fulfil their commitments, because the government has abdicated it's responsibility. This issue is critical for any new development in our region.

There have been enough new houses built so let's get the infrastructure finished. No more houses

In terms of transport and accessibility, all the options are old technology or versions of the same. Need to look out of the box.

The Government also want to cut back on supporting natural environment schemes and invade the countryside and also not provide proper roads schools doctors etc

Nobody wants development in their area - BENEFITS are often floated as an incitement - a new road, a new park, a new doctors etc. If you plan to use BENEFITS as an incentive PLEASE describe how and when the benefits will be implemented and measured as a real benefit to the community. Otherwise - it just politics which we are all fed up with - be honest. PLEASE

I think that there is some kind of view that East Hampshire will become an eco and green paradise and everyone will live, work socialise within it. Putting up houses everywhere will create communities, but they will not evolve and engage unless you have good retail, leisure, business, transport and other infrastructure to support them. When will EHDC and HCC actually realise this and do something meaningful to address these issues?

Housing

Also, considering centrally-determined housing targets are now flexible, I don't understand why recent planning applications that are contrary to demographic needs were approved despite reasonable local objections.

There appears to be no emphasis on developing brownfield sites. This should be a priority considered before other development. Only when all brownfield sites have been used should we consider whether further land needs to be used for housing.

Serious thought needs to be given if more housing is required. New larger establishments are better suited as they would then create their own communities and facilities. Outlying Villages do require new housing, but that must include facilities for the elderly - bungalows with wider doors, etc - and also housing for the younger generation. Greater consideration should be considered for refurbishing existing housing - to create new developments / communities so as to discourage "slum" "rundown" areas.

This consultation does not ask the obvious and most important question - should EHDC accept the Government's proposed housing numbers? The answer is obviously NO because it is not fair to impose 100% of the County's housing numbers on the remaining 43% that sits outside of the SDNP. The council and MP Damian Hinds have stated they have lobbied the Government on this issue so if they focussed their energy on arguing their case then we would not need the additional housing and this consultation becomes a moot point.

Another point would be that often a reason for ill-considered and unattractive housing is that those involved in the development don't themselves live nearby - they just don't care about it's effects on the neighbours and surroundings. We need to think of incentives to encourage responsible development done with heart; something of which to be proud. If there was a framework that encouraged landowners/farmers to not just sell off land to remote developers and therefore lose control/interest, but instead to maintain some control/interest with some degree of input from neighbours too, that may help improve the quality of development and allow the council to be more at ease with developments taking place, knowing there was more local consent and responsibility.

It's difficult to strike a balance between ensuring there is housing and that what housing there is is done in a way that enhances rather than desecrates existing settlements and landscapes. Nearly all development of the last 100 years has been trading off the better job done by our ancestors prior to that, and simply been plonking bland, ugly and car-defined estates on the edge of previously attractive places. Good luck to you!

The selection of sites and numbers is the key issue. We do not want to be NIMBY about it and recognise the need. However what has to be done needs to be done in the most sympathetic way in our area.

A more flexible approach to housing numbers is needed. There is no mention in the Plan for sites for energy generation (green or otherwise) and very little for employment

It seems that the Government want to overbuild expensive houses which have plenty of in this area at the expense of the poor/homeless and peoples that might be evicted soon by landlords who want to increase rents at this time in spite of increased inflation and high fuel bills etc-we need more social/cheaper houses at this time.

Environment

I don't understand why this consultation was not conducted earlier in order to safeguard vital natural habitats and agricultural land!

EH must protect the uniqueness of its countryside and preserve its farm land for food fproduction and its beautiful green fields for future generations. I wish them success with this

The consultation document is headed "better homes", but we consider that in a rural District, greater emphasis should have been given to the effects of housebuilding on the productive farmland and woodland of the District.

By 2040 (when the subject Plan Period ends), a number of low-lying, Southern English coastal areas seem likely to become covered by the sea. By 2100, all the most-populated, coastal areas from Dorset to Kent seem certain to be permanently flooded. The present draft Local plan ignores these likely changes and their enormous consequences. They could start by defining the successive positions of new coastlines, between now and 2100.

Your approaches to the environment are all very defensive - they all talk about minimising damage. There is nothing about proactively enhancing the environment - we need to increase biodiversity, particularly if the population is to increase. There should be a proportional increase in public open space and "wild" land.

Natural forces of water, climate etc are very powerful in spite of human wants to control everything. Sometimes we have to accept that nature can win over humans. The ecosystem is our life support as well as other species of animals and plants and there needs to be widespread respect of that fact.

South Downs National Park

Any local plan will automatically be biased because of the SDNP and the drive from Petersfield to concrete over the rest of the area. The imbalance across the county of Hampshire has to be taken into account.

Generally the consultation in long term should not be restricted to EHDC boundaries as it is disproportionate in demand and practical supply given SDNP constraints

It is also important that the National Park doesn't become like a "reserve". With all the land outside filled with housing sprawl and then very little inside, with only the best-off being able to afford to live there - it ceases to be a real living, working rural area.

With planning responsibility for just 43% of its district and, in addition, in scattered separate areas, it has been recommended that the current area/s are not sufficient to provide critical mass for efficient or effective planning. I suggest EHDC's planning responsibilities are transferred/delegated to either the SDNPA or the neighbouring districts: thereby providing critical mass and efficient planning.
It is about time Petersfield had a clean air act and banned wood burning stoves and private fires. How is it right knowing what we know in 2022 that we have to breath in smoke, pollution and dangerous fumes from selfish ignorant "neighbours", making people ill. Or does East Hampshire Council not care about real issues.

Planning process

I review the weekly EHDC planning decisions and applications religiously and I can see glaring inconsistencies with decisions reached throughout the district, similar applications with the same problems get vastly different decisions which make no sense whatsoever.

I have put dissatisfied, due to my experience with EHDC and planning over the last 2 years. It is clear to see that applications and their associated plans are not properly reviewed or scrutinised by those employed to do so.

Furthermore there is little to no follow up action to ensure what has been applied for is actually what has been built, and to the standards agreed and discharged. Including weak enforcement for blatant breaches.

Whitehill & Bordon

It seems to be a bulldozing effect by East Hampshire - especially Bordon and Whitehill. Quite simply, there appears to be a certain amount of lip service paid to the views and needs of local people who've lived in the area for a number of years. It's fine for progress to happen, and we do learn from our mistakes. The mistakes made in Bordon and Whitehill include not providing the necessary infrastructure- be it employment and industry, a balance of shops, comprehensive and adequate medical services and facilities, education and transport and links - buses and trains. In not providing this essential infrastructure you are forcing a community to rely on their own vehicles to travel to other destinations where these exist. EHDC appear to want to tick boxes and create something aligning to an utopia - and we all know that utopia is an imagined perfection and far, far from providing what we as a community really need

The people of Whitehill and Bordon are not listened to or respected in any way. The plan from the outset was to build 100's of houses without adequate infrastructure to support them. THERE ARE NO JOBS in the town and no public transport to enable the people to seek employment elsewhere if they are not fortunate enough to own and afford to run a car - a common problem in an area which has more than its fair share of less well off inhabitants. Applications from businesses which could improve the area for all - eg major supermarkets or a film studio - are turned down, yet new businesses in Alton are welcomed and thriving. If only the bus service allowed the people of Whitehill and Bordon to travel there and back in order to work, but the timetabled buses are sparse, and, even if they do run the service is shamefully unreliable, with breakdowns and no-shows a regular occurrence. Education in the area is woefully insufficient. If all children are supposed to be educated to age 18, where is our college, offering courses designed to get them into worthwhile careers or - yes - even university? It seems to be the Council's intent to turn our town into an urban ghetto and there seems to be nothing the local people can do to make themselves heard when they object. All those responsible should be wholeheartedly ashamed.

No one I have spoken to wants anymore housing between Bordon and Lindford, they all feel The Standford Gap is vital.

Regarding Bordon and Whitehill I have seen so many proposals about how the town would develop over that last 50 x years or so, and simply it never seems to come to any meaningful conclusion.

What exactly will make Bordon and Whitehill a destination place, when other towns close by already have the infrastructure they need to thrive?

Bordon must NOT be allocated any more housing. We have been promised so much in the way of infrastructure etc but received very little except houses and the Shed. What has happened to the rest.

I think you really need to sort out reliable, sustainable public transport provision before anything else development wise is considered in Whitehill/Bordon.

Spatial considerations

A general consideration that if there is national levelling up taking place then more development should be taking place in the north rather than the south

EHDC's approach to sustainable housing development needs radical change, so that the available brownfield sites are utilised for development before any consideration is given to development on greenfield sites.

In order for the Local Plan Review to be considered sound, we recommend that the distribution of housing be concentrated around existing settlements, and therefore avoids a new standalone settlement as previously proposed. This would ensure that the requirements of the Plan can be met.

Settlement hierarchy

Some of the figure \ charts at the consultation that gave points to villages towns etc are incorrect which has allowed EHDC to make incorrect decisions about locations. This will effect the next stage on deciding site locations.

Reference is made to "revised" settlement boundaries. Why were these changed to add South Medstead to Four Marks, removing the boundary gap between the two?
Walking/cycling is also referred to, assuming that people will walk/cycle to the Four Marks shops: BUT this area has virtually NO pavements (and nowhere to create them as the roads cannot be widened), roads that are barely wide enough for two lanes of traffic, yet this is considered a sensible "green" option. It is impossible to obey the highway code and give cyclists/horses the minimum passing distance on most of the South Medstead roads, yet it is moved up in the hierarchy because of some random decision? Any more development in the area will only create more traffic/danger for these pedestrians you assume will be using the roads - so they will go by car as it is safer. I see no point in joining in a "consultation" when the fundamental issue of settlement boundaries has been arbitrarily decided without reference to the topography.

What's missing from the consultation?

One aspect that is not covered is how the Local Plan will adapt to changing needs over the 20 years it is looking at. The world and environment we are living in is changing rapidly and will continue to do so. Flexibility in approach must be built in.

Other items missing are: improving public transport, cleaning up the roadside litter; only building on brownfield, all new buildings to be carbon neutral, stop cutting verges, plant more trees.

The reason for feeling very unhappy is that, on several occasions within the questionnaire, the council states that it does not welcome the submission of any details of any sites for consideration. We consider that this is not acceptable and is a missed opportunity.

Other

I'm not sure how to include my vote of Option 1 for development of new housing locations. Hope this will register it, thank you.

Difficult to give a general answer when areas are so specific to historical development, developers avarice and the needs of the population.

What is it driven by? The current Plan goes out to 2038. Have you given up on it already. Government views and needs are already being influenced by feedback and pressure from the electorate via their MPs. Is finance the true driver? I have seen no progress yet on the Plans produced in the past. How long is this required growth sustainable? It calls for examination in other parts of Government. You cannot grow land mass.

To summarise our responses:

- In broad terms, Stagecoach is supportive of the overall Vision for the Plan presented in the document. However, we have serious concerns about some key omissions and the way in which this Vision is most appropriately and effectively delivered.
- Amendments made to the wording of the Vision to ensure that EHDC recognise the need for the strategy that has proper regard for the role of transport and mobility in achieving national and local policy goals. This is especially crucial for carbon mitigation in a rural authority.
- Reinstatement of a commitment to ensuring that the plan seeks to provide a front door for everyone within the vision or the strategic objectives.
- Identification of a spatial strategy that is more ambitious in delivering new homes swiftly in locations which by virtue of the highest possible quality of active travel and public transport provision, ensure that development is as sustainable as possible;
- Basing the settlement hierarchy purely on a crudely defined 20-minute neighbourhood concept fails to properly inform the future spatial distribution of development throughout the District and distorts the analysis of where the most sustainable options for development are likely to arise;
- Conform with the principles established in NPPF and PPG to ensure that the Standard Methodology is indeed the starting point to arrive at the minimum figure, and recognising that the required quantum of housing may well need to increase beyond that level given affordability pressures and the need to accommodate some need from PfSH in particular.
- In the context of East Hampshire, a range of sites of up to about 2000 dwellings is likely present the best opportunity to deliver affordable homes and new infrastructure, with the largest allocation likely to be closer to 1300-1600 units.
- None of the Spatial Strategy Options is evidence based sufficient to arrive at a preferred approach.
- Rather an approach that has full and proper regard to both local self-containment and also the key inter-urban movement corridors that allow for a regular and direct public transport offer, is most likely to achieve the Vision objectives, and also conform to the requirements set out both in NPPF and wider national policy. A rigorous approach to 20-minute neighbourhoods being a 10 minute walking radius, nevertheless is an important articulating principle. This should sit alongside the identification of key public transport corridors, where there should be a presumption that further service improvements should be achieved to support wider mode shift and maximise the synergy between existing and new travel demands.