



The countryside charity
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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

9th December 2020 (by email)

Dear Dacorum members,

New Dacorum Local Plan consultation

We want to alert you to the consultation on the proposed Local Plan which Dacorum Borough Council has recently published. It's called the 'Emerging Strategy for Growth' (2020-2038) consultation and contains very alarming proposals which will threaten large areas of Dacorum's Green Belt and the countryside. Nearly 17,000 new houses are proposed to be built between now and 2038, and another 4,000 after that, throughout the Borough: this is more than twice the annual house building rate in the current Dacorum Core Strategy adopted in 2013.

As well as causing huge loss of countryside on your doorstep, these proposals will result in greater stress on inadequate transport, water supplies and local service infrastructure.

The consultation document can be viewed at <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan> or via Dacorum's consultation portal: <https://consult.dacorum.gov.uk/kse/event/35755>

The rules of the planning system require that Dacorum Borough Council takes account of all comments made to it in response to this consultation when preparing the next stage of the Local Plan later in 2021. That next stage will be the 'deposit' version: you will also have a chance to comment on this in due course. Eventually the deposit version will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate in a public examination.

So we urge all of you to look at the consultation document and send your comments to Dacorum Borough Council by the closing date of 7th February 2021. Our planning team and local volunteers are working to produce notes on the key issues as we see them, which can be used in framing your own responses to the consultation. We aim to have these available by early January and we will email this information to you and will post it on our Facebook page, which is accessible via our website www.cpreherts.org.uk

Our advice is to avoid use of the consultation portal as it uses a series of questionnaires which make it more difficult for respondents to express their own views.

There is a bewildering number of documents which support the consultation itself: perhaps the most revealing are the Topics papers. We'd recommend study of those on Green Belt and Housing in particular. These reveal why Dacorum has declared itself an area for accelerated growth and is proposing housing numbers which are far higher than those actually needed.

CPRE is working nationally and locally for a beautiful and living countryside

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO
Chairman: Richard Bullen

Registered Charity 1162419



Please get in touch with the CPRE Hertfordshire planning team on office@cpreherts.org.uk if you can offer your help with our campaign to protect Dacorum's countryside.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Richard Bullen,
Honorary Chairman