

**PLEASE HELP PREVENT THE POPULATION OF BINSTED PARISH MORE THAN  
DOUBLING ...  
AND SAVE NEATHAM DOWN! (ACT BEFORE 4 MARCH!)**

***Signing petitions shows you care, but it's numbers of objections that changes Local Plans  
So we each need to respond to EHDC's Draft Local Plan ('Reg 18' Consultation) The deadline for  
consultation responses is 4 March.***

*The simplest way to respond is to send an email to: [localplan@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@easthants.gov.uk)  
You can also respond through the EHDC website: [www.easthants.gov.uk/lp-consultation](http://www.easthants.gov.uk/lp-consultation)*

*We are well aware that it is a daunting task for anyone (the Parish Council included!) trying to get  
to grips with the many hundreds of pages (containing highly technical information and jargon)  
provided by EHDC in consultations such as this, or how best to respond effectively. Binsted Parish  
Council's full response to the EHDC's consultation will be published shortly at  
<https://binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/consultations>*

*The text below is our attempt to provide a summary of the key points we intend to make in  
objecting to the draft plan and reflect the majority views of local residents who have contacted us  
and taken part in various local events on the subject. If your views overlap with ours, we hope the  
points below may be of use.*

**Too many houses, in the wrong place, with no infrastructure, and environmental destruction:**

- Excessive homes proposed: +22% above EHDC's required allocation of 9,082 homes by 2040.
- 3 development sites<sup>1</sup> *in our parish* (one of over 1,00 houses) would destroy 111 hectares of greenfield/good quality agricultural land (4% of parish).
- Building on productive farmland is against the government's 'Brownfield First' policy.
- Proposals would irrevocably change the rural nature of the local area.
- Would have a negative impact on nature & biodiversity, including River Wey & chalk aquifer.
- Further sites yet to be proposed from SDNP Local Plan, but EHDC Plan proposals alone would MORE THAN DOUBLE our parish population.
- Puts unsustainable pressure on local infrastructure (roads, water supply, sewage, health care).
- Big greenfield developments are NOT what Binsted 'Parish Priorities Statement' said we want.<sup>2</sup>

**We are extremely concerned about Neatham Down (Site ALT-8) and urges it is withdrawn:**

- A beautiful landscape - rolling hills, open fields, wildlife (bats, hares, herds of deer, and several 'Red List' bird species: e.g. skylarks, kites, buzzards.)
- Site designated a 'Valued Landscape': large-scale development is normally not allowed.
- Building here conflicts with Policy NBE 13 'Protection of Natural Resources' & 'Dark Skies'.

---

<sup>1</sup> ALT8 Neatham Down, HOP1 Holt Pound and ALT7 Lynch Hill

<sup>2</sup> (<https://binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Binsted-Parish-Priorities-Statement-vFinal2023.pdf>).

- ‘Strategic Site’: in planning parlance this means developing a new settlement of 1,000+ homes, even in locations (countryside) where rules would normally prevent development.
- Site promoter wants to develop 1,250 houses.
- Site was already assessed and rejected for a smaller development of 650 houses.
- Site is disconnected from Alton: even with A31 bridging, difficult to integrate with Alton.
- Access constraints: walk/cycle across A31 footbridge; vehicles via Lynch Hill site.
- High car-dependence: parts of site 30 minute walk (2km) from Alton High Street. Significant increases in traffic in our parish, Alton, key junctions and on the A31, as well as the impact during construction.
- No transport impact/capacity work has been undertaken so far.
- Further pressures on vital services such as GP appointments- EHDC is not responsible for, and has no direct powers to ensure that services such as this are increased to meet the increased population from the development they are proposing.
- Not climate resilient - site is substantially affected by areas of groundwater flood risk.
- Site only 30m from Northern Wey - development will worsen local flooding.
- Development could ‘kill’ the Northern Wey chalk stream (reduce chalk aquifer recharge & increase demand for water).
- Inadequate sewage treatment capacity: Alton STWs regularly discharge untreated sewage.
- Poor location for affordable housing. No local services & geology means building expensive
- Building beyond A31 creates creep into countryside & likely future fusion with Holybourne.
- ‘CIL island’ – A proportion of the financial contributions by developers (Community Infrastructure Levies) would normally go to the parish that the development is being built in. EHDC are proposing a ‘CIL Island’ where this would not automatically apply. CIL enables Binsted Parish Council to fund a wide variety of community assets and projects.
- Possible new primary school at Neatham Down – a threat to Binsted school?

You can visit [www.saveneathamdown.org](http://www.saveneathamdown.org) if you are interested in finding out more or getting involved in the campaign set up by local residents to prevent this proposed development and impacts on Alton and surrounding parishes such as ours.