

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Joint Draft Local Plan Consultation Response  
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils  
Endeavour House  
Russell Road  
Ipswich  
IP1 2BX.

27 September 2019

Dear Sirs,

## Draft Mid Suffolk Local Plan – Consultation Response

The Parish Council would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the long awaited new Local Plan draft. In response we wish to raise the following points:

### 1. Settlement Boundaries

Brome – the Plan is proposing an extension to the supplement boundary on the eastern side of the village and on the northern side of Brome Street (C154). Within this extended area there is little scope for development and the parish Council may seek to allocate alternative sites via the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan.

Oakley – the Plan is proposing a large extension to the supplement boundary on the eastern side of the village and on the northern side of the B1118 and including agricultural land. The Draft Local Plan is the only consultation on this sizeable extension and whilst the Parish Council, at the time of submitting this response, does not have an opinion on the extension, it feels the rationale behind the extension should be included with the Place Map.

### 2. The rural economy and environment

The Parish Council is in general supportive of the role agriculture plays in the rural economy and the resultant impacts of a village being surrounded by the agricultural sector. However, an application for poultry units (350,000 birds) in Brome (Ref 1307/17) which the Parish Council recommended for refusal due to overwhelming objection from parishioners, was approved by the Planning Authority. As the Local Plan is currently drafted, this application would be contrary to 15.1 below. The Parish Council would like to see policy development to strengthen and clarify the following policy and a sound framework to prevent a massing of intensive poultry rearing units in the countryside because application for such has not been determined against an appropriate policy.

#### LP 16 Environmental Protection

15.5, as show below seems to set out to protect high quality agricultural land – the Council assumes for arable or livestock production – but does not detail what protections would be afforded if large scale poultry rearing units were proposed and the resulting biomass digesters to deal with waste product etc. The second extract below seems to support that development of this nature should take place on previously developed land perhaps such as Eye Airfield, however, more detail and clarity is required.

*15.5 In line with the National Planning Policy Framework the Joint Local Plan seeks to protect high quality agricultural land where possible. Whilst in some cases meeting wider objectives will necessitate the loss of agricultural land, particularly considering the relatively limited amount of brownfield land available for development in the Districts, the policy seeks to ensure that loss of agricultural land is a consideration”.*

#### *1. LAND Efficient and Effective Use of Resources/Land*

*a. Development on previously developed land will be prioritised, where appropriate, to minimise the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land*

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2.

We would also like to submit the following comments on proposed policy:

SP03 Development within Hinterland and Hamlet Villages. This policy states that design should be sympathetic to rural surroundings etc. Brome is described as a Hinterland Village yet a large part of it is industrial. There are currently no policies which support hinterland villages when the parish area includes industrial development.

SP10 Climate Change – there should be a review of this policy and more emphasis on proactive measures. Since the production of the Draft Local Plan both Babergh and Mid Suffolk have made climate emergency declarations.

LP07 Affordable Housing – seeks to deliver 35% requirement for affordable housing on sites of ten or more units. Villages such as Brome and Oakley are unlikely to see developments of over ten units and would, if supported by a Housing Needs Survey, look to deliver affordable housing on smaller sites. The Parish Council hopes that there is policy to support such.

We trust these comments will be taken into account as per of the continued examination of the draft document.

Yours faithfully,

*Sarah Foote*

Sarah Foote PSLCC. MIMLCC  
Clerk.