

# UPDATE: Your Green Belt still NEEDS YOU!

## Your voice matters! SAVE OUR GREEN BELT!

### Respond before 30th September 2019

Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) have launched a **second consultation on their Local Plan** (how they will meet housing targets, develop our local area and protect our environment). **You must respond by midnight, on 30th September 2019.**

#### COMPLETE IT NOW! QUICK LINKS...

Register: <http://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/register>

Complete consultation: <http://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/consult.ti/LPOC/consultationHome>  
(scroll down to the bottom of this webpage to the 'Respond' section)

#### FAQs

**1. What's the consultation about?**

The council have housing targets to meet and are looking at five options, **three of which include releasing our local Green Belt land and using it for a development of 900+ houses.**

**2. I did the previous consultation (in 2016/17). Why do I need to respond to this one?**

This is a separate consultation, with new options to consider. Your previous response didn't go to waste and was used to help shape the council's housing strategy. However, **if you want to have your say about housing (and specifically whether it is built on Green Belt or not) you should act now.**

**3. We need more housing. What's wrong with building on the Green Belt?**

Green spaces are good for health and wellbeing, and counter the impact of pollution. Making the case to release any part of the Green Belt for development opens the floodgates and puts all Green Belt land at risk in the future. **There is no going back. Once it is built on, it is gone forever.** In addition, whilst the openness of Green Belt might make it an 'easy option' for development, it is our urban areas that have the most suitable infrastructure (schools, transport links, health services, etc). **We believe there are more sustainable alternatives to provide new homes, with less impact on our surroundings.**

**4. Which of the five options should I pick?**

**You should pick an option based on your own views but Option 4 is the only realistic option that doesn't impact the Green Belt.**

**5. Do I need to read the Consultation Document before I respond?**

Yes – you need to understand the five options.

**6. Can I respond on behalf of others?**

Responses are individual and everyone in your household should respond independently, but you *can* respond on behalf of a company or organisation.

**7. Do you need to be over 18 to respond?**

Under 18s are welcome to complete the consultation questionnaire if a parent signs the privacy note.

**8. Do you need to live in Elmbridge to respond?**

No. A new Local Plan will affect our open spaces, roads, school places, health services and much more, so whether you live in Elmbridge or in a neighbouring borough, you can have a say.

**9. Do I have to respond online?**

Yes. The consultation is only available as an online form. If you do not have access to a computer, there are computers available to use in reception at the Council Offices, Civic Centre, Esher, or in The Dittons Library.

**10. Can I get help completing the consultation questions and how long will it take?**

There are eight questions and most of them are straightforward. It should take about 10 minutes to complete. We have explained the questions overleaf.

For more details on answers, help and advice visit: [www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk](http://www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk)

For updates on the Local Plan follow us:  [www.facebook.com/HWLDActionGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/HWLDActionGroup/)

**ACT NOW TO SAVE THE GREEN BELT: RESPOND BY 30.09.19**

# Completing the consultation questionnaire

To begin, visit: <http://consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/consult.ti/LPOC/consultationHome>  
(scroll down to the bottom of this webpage to the 'Respond' section)

For more details on answers, help and advice visit [www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk](http://www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk)

Questions 1 and 2 are self explanatory.

**Q3a.** Place-making and the continued success of well designed well-functioning places is fundamental to developing a growth strategy for the borough. **What are the key characteristics that make your area a great place to live?**

This is a very important question - answer this one as a priority by explaining what makes your area special to you. You might consider: Rural nature of area; easy access to open spaces to enjoy outdoor activities; access to footpaths; sports fields and recreation grounds; allotments; rail and road links; good local schools; sense of space; safe neighbourhood; village communities and shops; etc.

**Q3b.** What changes would you like to see in the borough over next 15 years?

This is a very important question - answer this one as a priority by explaining what would make Elmbridge an even better place to live.

You might think about things that should be **maintained** (eg. Open spaces and clean air; high streets, cafés and shops); things that could be **improved** (eg. Public transport and school places); things that should be **introduced** (eg. Affordable housing near employment and public transport; more trees); and things that should be **prevented** (eg. Flood risk and pollution by retaining undeveloped green spaces).

**Q4a.** This options consultation document sets out five options for housing growth for the borough...

Please indicate your preferred Option:

**Option 1 - intensify urban area** (This Option includes identifying open spaces e.g. allotments and playing fields for development and relocating these to existing Green Belt, for example the Green Belt in Long Ditton/Hinchley Wood).

**Option 2 - optimise urban area and 3 areas of Green Belt release** (This Option includes building on Green Belt in Long Ditton/Hinchley Wood).

**Option 3 - optimise urban area and large Green Belt release** (This Option includes building on Green Belt in Long Ditton/Hinchley Wood).

**Option 4 - optimise urban area This focuses building in existing urban areas, without using Green Belt or relocating open areas such as allotments and playing fields.**

**Option 5 - optimise urban area and small areas of Green Belt release** (This Option includes building on Green Belt in Long Ditton/Hinchley Wood).

**Q4b.** Please give alternative ways you think we could meet the government's ambitious housing target of 623 new homes each year for the next 15 yrs.

If you have ideas on how the council can meet its housing target, state them here, but you don't have to complete this question. Note that there has been much discussion over whether the housing target is correct, as it ignores population changes and unpredictable housing market over the next 15 years, especially in the current climate.

**Q5.** How do you think we should plan for the new homes we need in your area?

• Higher densities • Green Belt release  
• A mixture of higher densities and Green Belt release • Other

Please indicate your preferred option. Ensure that your answer does not contradict your answer to Q4. If you choose 'Other' you might consider: Tighter restrictions on developers and the kind of homes they are permitted to build; Encouragement of large house-to-flats conversions to redress the balance; 'Outside the box' thinking that considers multi-use spaces (eg. Flats above shops and libraries).

**Q6a.** Are you aware of any planning issues that need to be addressed in our detailed day-to-day planning policies?

This question is asking if you know of any planning issues that might influence the type of homes to build and where to build them. If you are unsure what 'planning issues' are, see Q6b for examples. Ticking YES allows you to comment in Q6b.

**Q6b.** If yes, please specify which planning issues

• Density • Design/Character • Building heights  
• Parking • Conservation Areas  
• Historic features (eg. Listed buildings)  
• Sustainability/renewable energy  
• Flooding • Open spaces • Other

Please tick all issues that you feel need attention and then be selective in the short comments box. Some comments you might consider that support not building on the Green Belt include: **Sustainability** (providing homes in existing urban areas produces lowest ecological footprint); **Infrastructure** (new homes close to village centres provide better access to transport links and amenities). For more help with this question see [www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk](http://www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk)

**Q7.** Do you have any comments to make in relation to this Options Consultation? Please give your own feedback on the consultation.

**Q8.** Did you respond to the previous Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation in 2016? Indicate YES or No as applicable to you.

For more information visit [www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk](http://www.savehwldgreenbelt.co.uk)