



Ringwold with Kingsdown Parish Council Report of Public Consultations with Local Residents on the Dover District Council Draft Local Plan

The Ringwold with Kingsdown Parish Council held two virtual consultations at 10:30 on 23 February and 19:30 on 26 February. A total of 49 residents attended one or more of the two sessions. In addition, the parish council received emailed submissions from 6 residents.

Site Allocations Policy No 1: Non-Strategic Housing Allocations

Almost all of the comments and questions raised during the consultations related to proposed non-strategic housing allocations in the Local Plan. Specifically, objections were raised to the two potential housing sites identified in the parish, KIN002 and RIN004. These objections are outlined below with reference to overall housing strategy in the draft local plan.

KIN002 (15 persons contributing)	
Objections	Relevant Draft Local Plan Policy
Proposed 90 houses would overwhelm limited local services and infrastructure and new residents would be required to travel outside the area to access schools, shops, health and other services, and employment. Lack of public transport would mean this travel would be by private car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of housing growth primarily based on Settlement Hierarchy - Growth in settlements with the best range and access to services, facilities and job opportunities. • Climate emergency commitment to sustainable transport – Reduce reliance on private car transport
Proposed plot is agricultural land with hedges and trees, and potential development would reduce green area and visual amenity of the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to biodiversity net gain over the plan period. • Climate emergency commitment to net gain in carbon sequestration through increased green areas. • Allow the loss of open space only following a robust assessment which demonstrates it is surplus to requirements
Proposed plot is an area of archaeological interest that requires protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the case for development affecting a heritage asset of archaeological interest is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ.
Existing cycle and walking routes bordering the proposed site along Knights Bottom, enjoyed by many residents as an area of natural beauty, would likely to be negatively affected by proposed development, especially in conjunction with WAL002 proposed housing development in the neighbouring parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change emergency commitment to sustainable transport – increase infrastructure for “active” transport. • Any community facility that makes a positive contribution to the social or cultural life of a community should be retained.

RIN004 (3 persons contributing)	
Objections	Relevant Draft Local Plan Policy
A large access directly on to the A258 would be required for this potential site for 5 houses on land currently designated for agricultural use. Required sight lines would mean a large portion of the hedge bordering the site would be destroyed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to biodiversity net gain over the plan period. • Climate emergency commitment to net gain in carbon sequestration through increased green areas. • Allow the loss of open space only following a robust assessment which demonstrates it is surplus to requirements
The site is a greenfield site, formerly used as a plant centre, and outside the current Ringwould village boundary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ringwould is classified as a smaller village or hamlet, where new housing outside existing village boundaries should not be considered. • Infill development should not result in the loss of important village green spaces.
Granting of planning permission to RIN004 will potentially provide access and increase pressure to develop RIN002, an AONB immediately behind RIN004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development within AONB's will be supported only in exceptional circumstances. • Ringwould is classified as a smaller village or hamlet, where new housing outside existing village boundaries should not be considered.

Non-housing Comments Received during the Local Consultations

Issue/Section of Local Plan	Comment/Complaint
Local Plan Consultation Process (from two persons)	Holding the consultation during a period of national lockdown limits the participation of those with limited IT skills.
Climate Emergency – Sustainable Transport (from 4 persons)	The Local Plan aims to help people engage in more active forms of travel (i.e to walk and cycle more) as part of their daily travel routine. The priority for our parish should be construction of a cycle/foot path between Ringwould and Kingsdown villages.
Highway Safety – Sustainable Transport (from 2 persons)	A pelican crossing on the A258 at Ringwould village would greatly facilitate safe use of bus stops and increased cycle/foot path use.

Comments on Proposed Policies in the Local Plan from the Parish Council

DM Policy 13 Rural Local Needs Housing - Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish Council welcomes the proposed involvement of single parish councils or parish councils working jointly in the production of Local Needs Housing Surveys provided that the parish councils

are supplied with the necessary data held by other authorities to produce such Surveys. It is unclear from the draft Local Plan how this would be achieved.

DM Policy 16 Residential Extensions and Annexes - Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish Council suggests that Clause d) be edited to read:

*"**They** would not cause harm to the setting of a heritage **or natural** asset; and would preserve or enhance the special architectural or historic character and appearance of a conservation area and its setting."*

(Changes to the wording are in **bold** - the first one is purely grammatical and the additional "or natural" would allow for trees etc to be protected further as trees add to some conservation areas.)

Report Adopted at a meeting of the Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish Council on 8 March 2021