**LDP Consultation: Information from your Parish Council and a meeting of residents on Thursday 14th November, 7pm – 8:30pm at Blackmore Village Hall**

*The Local Development Plan (‘LDP’), which includes housing developments at the end of Woollard Way and Orchard Piece (labelled sites R25 & R26 in The Plan), has been unexpectedly amended by the Brentwood Borough Council (‘Brentwood BC’), reducing the number of houses from 70 to 50.*

*As this also affects people outside Blackmore village, this message is for ALL residents in the parish:*

* *To inform you of details of the revisions;*
* *To give you an overview of issues the Parish Council and Blackmore Village Heritage Association (‘BVHA’) have considered*
* *To encourage all of you to register your views with the Borough Council by the* ***closing date of 5pm 26th November*** *(even if you responded in February 2019 and your views haven’t changed)*
* *To explain how you can do this;*
* *To inform you of a Parish Council public meeting at Blackmore Village Hall to discuss the LDP* ***on Thursday 14th November 2019, between 7pm and 8:30 pm***
* *To alert you to concerns the Parish Council and BVHA have over the Consultation*
* *To discuss suggested ways forward*

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**The Revised LDP**

The ONLY change is to the number of houses (they will still be of ‘mixed size and type, incl. affordable’):

Site R25 (end of Woollard Way) **from 40 to 30**

Site R26 (by Orchard Piece) **from 30 to 20**

**Parish Council’s Overview**

* A 29% reduction (70 houses to 50 overall) does not address residents’ concerns of strain on local services and infrastructure, flooding, invasion of green belt land, inadequate access road to sites;
* About 70 new houses are being built outside the Borough but close-by (at Nine Ashes, the old Equestrian site off Fingrith Hall Lane, and Ashling’s Farm. The occupiers of these will all pass through Blackmore, or need to use services within the parish, but are not allowed-for in the revised Plan;
* No allowances have been made by Brentwood BC of very recent approvals they have given to Red Rose Farm site and Spriggs Lane (over 15 dwellings in total)

We’ve asked, but haven’t been told why, given the strength of opinion and that there have already been new developments close-by, Brentwood BC could not have scrapped sites R25 & R26 entirely;

**The Consultation**

* Has already begun and will last **until 5pm on Tuesday 26th November 2019**
* Brentwood Council has only notified to those who registered a view on the original plan in February 2019
* **HOWEVER** – it is open to all who have a view to express

**How to register your view**

* + Online at: [www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan) (you can also view the whole LDP here too)
  + By email to: [planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk)
  + In writing to: *Local Plan Consultation, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Ingrave, BRENTWOOD, CM15 8AY.*
  + *By requesting a comment form by calling 01277 312500*

**Concerns**

* We are not convinced that the consultation is sound – amongst other things, not everyone has been notified of it by Brentwood BC, either in Blackmore Village, or the parish as a whole;
* If residents don’t respond to the latest consultation, Brentwood BC and the Planning Inspector may consider them satisfied with the latest proposals, even if they are not. The Parish Council and the BVHA would therefore ask that everyone who has a view should respond to this fresh consultation – even if you have already responded in Feb 2019 and your views haven’t changed
* **DATA PROTECTION**: In the Brentwood BC notification of 15th October, 2019 (by letter or email to the original respondents only), we were told that if we responded to the amendments, this would automatically allow our details to be released to the Planning Inspectorate and Programme Officer. If we opted-out of this our views would be withdrawn;

**HOWEVER:** There is also a clause in the notification which says that *if you made representations in February 2019* [i.e. to the original plan] *you must NOW confirm your consent in writing or email or by post to: Local Plan Consultation, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Ingrave, BRENTWOOD, CM15 8AY.*

**If you don’t respond, your February comments will be removed. Please confirm without delay.**

**Ways forward**

* The Parish Council is funding legal opinion on whether, given concerns, the Consultation is valid;
* Together with the BVHA, we have asked those solicitors to re-visit the objections we raised on your behalf in February 2019, to include all recent developments in our arguments, for a new submission to this Consultation;
* We have invited Brentwood BC politicians and Officers to the public meeting at the Blackmore Village Hall on the evening of 14th November, so we can find out more about the LDP consultation process. The meeting is not intended to be a forum for protests, although we appreciate feelings are still running high. There will be time allowed towards the end of the meeting for questions to be put to Parish Councillors on other matters you may wish to raise;
* Brentwood BC have said further information about the LDP can be obtained by:
  + Telephoning 01277 312500 **or**
  + Emailing: [planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk)