

Compton Parish Council Local Plan Sub-Committee Report - May 2021

Local Plan Review

At the Council meeting on April 13, a motion was put forward to review Guildford's Local Plan and to seek a lower housing figure. However this motion was rejected in favour of an amended motion to review the feasibility of reviewing the Local Plan. The wording of the final resolution, approved by Council, is as follows:

"This Council ... resolves to continue to plan the review of the Local Plan and evidence base, to obtain expert independent assessment of the new issues and changed circumstances, to advise on the appropriate route to review the Local Plan, update the Plan's Evidence Base and then update the Local Plan in order to secure the best outcomes for our community and borough."

AONB Boundary Review

Despite an announcement in the Surrey Hills AONB Newsletter that that the boundary review of the AONB would take place this year, it appears that Natural England is continuing to hold back from initiating this review.

The current explanations are that the Glover Review on the future of National Parks and AONBs means that more work is needed on following through on those recommendations – and the Government has been tardy in actually responding to the Review and progressing it. Natural England also claims that, although it is still supportive, it cannot progress the Review until DEFRA provides them with the funding and resources to implement it.

A3 widening

On March 8, the Local Plan Sub-Committee penned a letter to Guildford Borough Council and to Angela Richardson Guildford MP to ask what mitigation measures would be put in place to prevent increased traffic through Compton should the A3 widening go ahead. To date the PC has received no response from either the MP or the Council, and it transpires that Angela Richardson has launched a petition calling for the widening of the A3 on change.org.

Recommendation: The Local Plan Sub-Committee recommends that a follow-up letter is sent to Council Leader Joss Bigmore and to MP Angela Richardson requesting that the questions put forward in the PC's letter are addressed.

GRA meeting

On March 25, Local Plan Sub-Committee chair Karen Stevens attended the Guildford Residents Associations meeting. One of the items discussed was the current consultation on ward boundaries. The review will look up to five years ahead – i.e. to 2027. The GRA meeting notes are attached (See Annex A)