

Relevant Extracts from Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

The Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy has been written and developed in close conjunction with Planning Services. The following extracts from the BCP Local Plan Issues and Options consultation were used as part of the evidence base and background context to the strategy.

<h3>Issues and Options Consultation</h3>	<h3>Responses</h3>
<h4>Consultation ran from Jan – March 2022</h4>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of 957 survey responses were received<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 831 online survey responses- 126 completed paper survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder e-newsletters to 2,900+ subscribers• Corporate e-newsletters to 46,000+ subscribers• Staff e-newsletters to 5,000+ recipients• Social media posts #BCPLocalPlan (Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn/Instagram)• Agents & developers session• Parish Councils session• Youth forum sessions	<p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,290 Pins were dropped on the interactive maps• 251 letters / emails received• 90 attended the library drop ins• 12,923 unique visits to the webpage• 14,269 minutes watched in Live Q&As• 1,115 Facebook comments• Over 15 press articles

Local Plan Issues and Options Summary report extracts:

p1 The Vision should prioritise environment

- Vital to ensure the Vision, and Local Plan, prioritises the environment, particularly the protection of the Green Belt
- Protection of the environment should be at the heart of the Local Plan as it is our greatest asset
- Should prioritise environmental safety and cleanliness of green areas, low levels of pollution and green transportation links
- Council seems to have ignored the fact that BCP declared a climate emergency 2 years ago
- Vision needs to be revised to prioritise tackling climate change, reversing the loss of wildlife habitats, and improving the health and wellbeing of BCP

p2 Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the ten objectives that we propose to include in the Local Plan?

Objectives	% agree (Q5)	% top 5 importance (Q7)
a) Regenerate our town centres and network of vibrant communities	82%	55%
b) Provide a sufficient supply of new market and affordable homes to meet the different needs of our communities	53%	28%
c) Support economic growth, the creation of jobs and the offer to visitors	73%	37%
d) Adapt our high streets and shopping areas to cater for changing retail demands	80%	43%
e) Provide a safe, sustainable and convenient transport network...	78%	53%
f) Conserve and enhance our protected habitats and biodiversity, and our network of green infrastructure and open spaces	89%	75%
g) Promote local character and the delivery of high quality urban design	69%	31%
h) Improve health and wellbeing and contribute towards reducing inequalities	77%	41%
i) Work towards achieving carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and inspire action to combat the climate and ecological emergency	70%	45%
j) Deliver the infrastructure needed to support development, local communities and businesses	74%	37%

P7 Vibrant Communities

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
a) Maintaining access for residents to basic local services and facilities within walking distance of their homes wherever possible (127)	96%	2%
b) Supporting our network of district centres, local centres, high streets and neighbourhood shopping parades by retaining them as a focal point for commercial activities (125)	92%	3%
c) Providing new homes within, or close to, existing centres (127)	65%	12%
d) Ensuring communities have access to open space and recreation facilities (127)	96%	2%
e) Providing safe, easy and accessible walking and cycle routes to access shopping areas, schools, community facilities and open spaces (128)	89%	3%
f) Embracing community-led and cultural initiatives that support local communities (128)	83%	4%
g) Supporting local food growing opportunities (128)	83%	2%
h) Providing advice to local communities who wish to develop neighbourhood plans in their areas (127)	83%	4%
i) A continued focus on the regeneration of Boscombe through the Towns Fund proposals (126)	55%	12%

P27 Our Natural Environment

Q71. How strongly do you agree or disagree with our recommendation for conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity (302)	88%	5%

- Suggestions for areas to be protected/protect green belt/wildlife
- The best way to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity is to protect all of the remaining green space in BCP specifically

- No further development allowed on green areas
- SANGs do not go far enough to protect wildlife and enhance biodiversity
- Wildlife corridors are essential and should not be destroyed
- More ranger patrols on heathlands to monitor visitors behaviour especially with dogs, riding motorbikes and littering
- Comments on developments/Housing/economy
- Reduce the impact of overdevelopment, infrastructure is already overwhelmed, e.g., sewage system
- No new developments should be approved unless they conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
- The Local Plan should be designed to preserve the natural environment for future generations
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity will help to lower carbon emissions and improve health and wellbeing, reducing cost of care in the future

Q83. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the options for supporting green infrastructure and open space?

Issues and Options	Agree	Disagree
Issue: Supporting green infrastructure and open space		
a) Recommendation - to maintain and expand the Green Infrastructure Network (299)	69%	20%
b) Option 1: Allowing the loss of the open space, if it can be demonstrated that it is underused and surplus to requirements (316)	12%	81%
c) Option 2: Allowing the loss of open space for community uses that outweigh the loss of the open space (310)	14%	69%
d) Option 3: Making new developments pay financial contributions towards enhancing or providing alternative open space if they cannot provide open space on site (322)	53%	38%

Q85. Please tell us any other comments about the natural environment in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

Suggestions:

- The protection of the area's natural environment must be given the highest priority
- Important to ensure our water is safe and clean, including our beaches all new developments should provide parks and green spaces to promote health and wellbeing
- More space for wildlife, higher quality spaces and improve existing spaces
- Heritage green sites like Sea View should be protected
- Protect trees
- It is essential to protect what exists already. Any new housing would increase the need for sewage disposal and water consumption - they are overstretched already
- Partner with voluntary and community organisations/groups to maintain our natural environment
- Engage with, and educate, communities about how best to protect the natural environment

Q103. Please tell us any other comments about our health and wellbeing in the Local Plan, including any other issues or ideas you feel that we should consider.

- More allotments, recreation grounds and play areas, woodland areas and walks, natural open areas with lakeside amenities to improve health and wellbeing
- Stop further development in and protect what space we have left
- Impact on wildlife habitats and natural assets valued by communities, e.g., trees, hedges, should be considered in planning applications

• **Importance of access to open spaces**

- Covid pandemic demonstrated how important open spaces are to health and wellbeing
- Nature is important for everyone's health, wellbeing and happiness, especially people with disabilities
- Health is not only about having the right homes, it's also about open spaces for sport, walking, contemplation
- More communal spaces and facilities to bring communities together for mental wellbeing, e.g., green spaces in central town/village locations, benches
- Collaborate with NHS to develop events/activities to encourage the use of our natural spaces in aid of our health, easing the financial burden on the NHS
- More funding to encourage people to use the natural environment for exercise and Wellbeing