

CIL Task Group

The Spelthorne Joint Committee met on 18 July to consider the Strategic CIL bids for the Sunbury Health Centre and the Spelthorne Playing Pitches. The Playing Pitch bid was supported and approved by all, however there were some concerns regarding the Sunbury Health Centre, specifically around the cost of the sustainable transport options (EV charging points and bike racks). Although Members agreed the centre requires improvement and investment, it was concluded that further information was required on the sustainable transport items before a final decision could be made.

On 16 August the CIL Task Group met with the NHS to seek clarification on these points. It was decided the EV charging points would be removed from the bid, and potentially return as a separate bid further down the line with more information. The bid will be presented to the Joint Committee with the bike racks included, however they can be removed at that stage should all Members not be satisfied. It was agreed this is the best way to proceed in order to have some agreement and progress on the upgrades to the centre itself. An extraordinary Joint Committee has been scheduled for 19 September where the Sunbury bid will be discussed.

Local Plan and Staines Development Task Groups

These groups have not met since the last E&S Committee meeting so this is more of an update on the Local Plan and Strategic Planning issues.

The Local Plan and Staines Development Framework consultation events finished with Sunbury Regatta on Saturday 13 August. The consultation on both documents was due to end on Monday 5 September but as advised to all Members and to the public through our usual channels this has now been extended to 19 September for the Local Plan only. This was because some further evidence documents were published since the start of the consultation. Whilst ideally the consultation would have started without the need for further updates, this is not unusual and was essential in order to meet our timescales for submission, especially as we have been trying to make up for lost time whilst the strategy was agreed. The SDF consultation finished on 5 September as planned and officers are now reviewing the comments before a Staines Development Task Group is convened to discuss final changes to the SDF to take account of feedback we have received.

Spelthorne responded to Elmbridge Council's own Regulation 19 consultation and a copy of the response was shared with all Members. This set out that we object to Elmbridge's plan as it does not aim to meet their housing need in full. That approach risks a neighbouring authority such as Spelthorne being called upon to meet their unmet need, a position that we would fight robustly. We have made it clear that no further Green Belt release would be acceptable beyond that proposed in our own Local Plan to meet our own housing need and that we are not able to meet need from outside the Borough.

Local Plan Consultation Responses

As of 24 August, there were 143 responses to the Local Plan consultation. 124 have been made against policies and 19 against sites. Respondents are asked to comment on each policy or site individually so this is the total comments made. An individual person or organisation may have made more than one response. The Green Belt policy has received 30 responses and the Open Space and Recreation has received 37.

There have been 17 responses to the Staines Development Framework consultation.

As mentioned above the end date for the Local Plan Consultation was extended to 19 September 2022 and as with all Local Plan consultations we would expect to receive over half of the responses in the last week of consultation and half of those on the last day, so we expect the final response rate to be much higher.

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