

Your Parish Council is Asking for your Help

1. Crier Article – Lound Neighbourhood Plan Up-Date, Feb 2020

In December, the Steering Group submitted the Draft Neighbourhood Plan to Lound Parish Council for their approval, on the understanding some changes might arise when the latest draft Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) Local Plan was released on 15th January 2020. It was envisaged such changes would contain modest refinements and our Draft Plan could be published this month, leading to a Public Consultation on its content.

In the event, after just one year, the draft BDC Local Plan showed a 37% increase in the requirement for new homes across Bassetlaw by 2037 and radical changes in how each town and village will contribute to these figures. The target for new homes in Lound, which is classified as a “small rural settlement”, has been doubled. This completely undermines the foundation on which the Lound Neighbourhood Plan was based.

The Residents’ Survey, 2016, showed a large majority of respondents believed little or no new housing was needed in the village. In January 2019, Part 1 of the draft BDC Local Plan stipulated a minimum of **21** new homes and our Draft Plan was revised upwards to meet this figure. The Steering Group were confident the Draft Plan was a realistic compromise and the policies written into it would protect the village from inappropriate development. Now we are being told that **42** new homes are required, calculated at 20% of dwellings in the Parish. This figure is neither fair nor sustainable. BDC’s presentation given at the recent Rural Conference will be available on the village website.

The Steering Group, which includes Parish Councillors, have remonstrated strongly with Bassetlaw officials that their disproportionate methods of seeking the higher figures unfairly penalise the small rural settlements such as Lound. Discussions have been opened with BDC to find a way around this impasse.

The draft BDC Local Plan is available to view on their website- www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/the-draft-bassetlaw-local-plan/draft-bassetlaw-local-plan-2020/ and this also allows you to comment on the draft during the consultation with the public, which is open until 26th February 2020. Copies should be available at Council offices or libraries. You are encouraged to write or email your concerns to Bassetlaw District Council, as **individual responses and representations are very important and carry significant weight**. A suggested form of words for this will be available on the village website. Those without internet access can obtain a paper copy from Nick Prout at 83, Town Street. The postal address is Planning Policy, Bassetlaw District Council, Queen’s Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, Notts, S80 2AH and the email is thebassetlawplan@bassetlaw.gov.uk

We hope you will feel able to support your Parish Council and its Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

2. Form of Words for Reply to BDC

IMPORTANT: These should be used as a guide only, and are to assist in writing your objections. Please amend or rewrite as appropriate to reflect your own views. This is important because identical responses may be identified and recorded as a single response, so please do change them. The consultation ends on 26th February 2020.

“ Dear Sirs,

BDC Draft Local Plan 2020

On reading the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020 I see that it is proposed that each Small Rural Settlement (SRS), into which category Lound falls, has its Housing Requirement doubled from the previous 10% to 20% of its size in 2018. I feel that this is too many and that Bassetlaw District Council’s own figures demonstrate that this number is not required.

The evidence collected by our Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group over the last 4 years shows that there is a general acceptance of 21 new houses (10%) but that a doubling of this is unsupportable. The number of houses required by your Draft Plan is 1,090 in the SRS category, yet the 20% requirement shown in Policy ST2 will provide 2,124 houses, a 100% over-provision. If, as your presentation at the Bassetlaw Rural Conference states, many villages are already using the 20% requirement then there is no need for other SRSs to struggle to supply an unpopular increase in their requirement.

In Lound the infrastructure, drainage, power supply, etc, will not support such a large increase. Our village has infrequent public transport that is essentially unusable, and thus new houses will depend on private transport. This is against several of the stated aims of the Draft Local Plan, i.e. to increase sustainability and to mitigate climate change.

The Local Plan emphasises the provision of smaller/starter homes, which SRSs like Lound are unlikely to provide.

Your Draft Plan Policy ST2 states that for Large Rural Settlements that "Unless otherwise promoted through Neighbourhood Plans..." they will provide 20% growth. SRSs do not have this reference to Neighbourhood Plans, and this apparently diminishes the importance of Lound's Neighbourhood Plan.

I suggest that the requirement for a 20% increase within SRSs be reduced to 10% with a provision for more development if their Neighbourhood Plan supports this according to local needs. This will still provide your requirement and will produce a fair result.

Yours faithfully,"

3. Step-by-step guide to commenting on the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan online

The on-line commenting on the website is a little awkward and requires several steps to complete:

- Navigate to Bassetlaw Homepage
- Click on *Planning and building*
- Click on *The Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan*
- Click on *Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020*
- Click on *View the full Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan*
- This page allows you to view the Plan or to comment on the plan by clicking on the rectangular buttons
- Clicking on the *Comment on the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan* takes you to the next page which requires you to complete the data protection notice
- Clicking *Next* then takes you to page to complete your personal details
- Clicking *Next* takes you to a page which describes the various policies. We are particularly concerned with policy ST2 which deals with development in Small Rural Communities among others
- Click *Next*
- Question 2 relates to this policy. If you do not agree with this policy click 'No'. Click 'Add item' to comment on policy ST2
- Type in the box: Local Plan Policy number ST2, Page numbers 36 and 37, Response – Type your response here. The box will scroll to take your comments
- You do not have to answer the other questions unless you wish
- Click *Next*
- Click *Next*
- Question 14 allows you comment on other aspects of the plan if you wish
- Click *Submit*