

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT THREATS INCREASE

! RESPOND TODAY YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO COMMENT BEFORE COUNCIL MAKE THEIR DECISION !

Last year, due to the overwhelming local backlash against the Ashdown Business Park Extension and the Owlsbury Farm neighbourhood development in the Wealden Local Plan, we prevented the initial planning approval of the Ashdown Business Park extension.

Despite our collective success in halting the initial planning approval, an even larger Ashdown Business Park Extension and the new Owlsbury Farm neighbourhood are now being considered for inclusion in the new Local Plan. This Local Plan will govern planning across Wealden for the next 15 years. If the sites are included in the Local Plan, they will get planning permission and be developed.

It is VITAL that we all respond to the Local Plan Consultation with our objections before 10th



Ashdown Business Park Extension

This would equal over three quarters (77%) of the size of all the industrials estates in Tunbridge Wells. Those in Tunbridge Wells are beside the dual carriageway A21 leading to the national motorways. Uckfield is a very small town compared to Tunbridge Wells which is 7.5 times bigger. Maresfield is 17 miles away from the National Strategic Road Network (the A27 at Eastbourne) via Halland. Other places will be impacted eg Nutley, Crowborough and other small settlements.

The expansion is not needed at all. The Draft Local Plan allocates more than enough land already to create the jobs needed. Furthermore, the site is just 3km from the protected Ashdown Forest and in a Biodiversity Opportunity Area and surrounded by sensitive and protects priority habitats.



Owlsbury Farm Neighbourhood

Situated west of the A22 and north of A26, between Pitdown, Isfield, Little Horsted and Copwood, a proposal for a new neighbourhood of **2,000 homes across 167 ha/410 acres** in addition to the existing unfinished Ridgewood site - **helping to increase the population of Uckfield by 78% by 2040.**

The area, infrastructure and services already cannot cope. Owlsbury is disconnected from Uckfield across the A22. Developing the farm would have serious adverse environmental impacts.

These threats are driven by landowner/developer proposals. Neither is justified. As the two developments are within 3 miles of each other, if included within the Local Plan, we believe they will result in the merger of Uckfield and the surrounding villages into a single urbanised area. This would cause irreparable damage to the quality of life, the well-being of communities, the landscape and the environment.



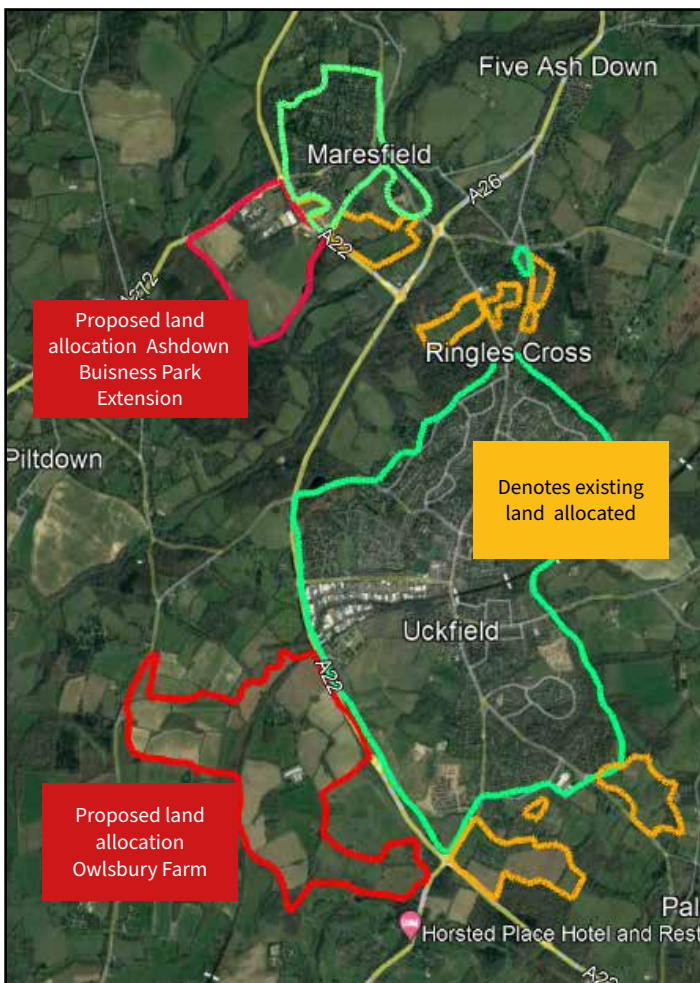
ACT NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

The public consultation runs until 5pm on 10th May



At this crucial time, SABRE and SABRE-OWL ask for your help in responding to the Consultation. This will be your only opportunity to express your opinion on whether or not Ashdown Business Park Extension and Owlsbury Farm's "settlement" should be included in the next version of the Local Plan. The local plan will guide planning policy for 15 years. Once confirmed we will not get another opportunity to influence planning policy for a generation.

Each and every one of us can play a part in this, and it makes a difference if we fill in one form each as opposed to one form per family. Every member of the family is free to submit their thoughts. Thank you so much for all your support - we know it's time consuming but this moment is particularly crucial. Responding now is so important for today's and future generations.



HOW TO RESPOND TO THE PLAN

OPTION 1: Via the Wealden Portal - read a full guide on how to respond on our website sabreowl.com/localplan

OPTION 2 (EASIER): Send the PDF fillable form by email - use our editable template* available at sabreowl.com/localplan

***REMEMBER TO EDIT OUR SUGGESTED TEXT AND MAKE IT YOUR OWN**

If you have problems you can call the Wealden helpline number 01892 602008 or email SABRE at sabre2023@btinternet.com

If you have an opinion, do use the Consultation window **now** - just 30 minutes of your time before 10th May is essential.



THE LOCAL PLAN ALREADY ALLOCATES ENOUGH LAND TO CREATE THE JOBS THE FUTURE POPULATION NEEDS.



WE DO NOT HAVE THE ROAD NETWORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO COPE WITH EITHER OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.



IF THESE SITES ARE ALLOCATED IN THE LOCAL PLAN, THEN PERMISSION WILL BE GIVEN AND BUILDING WILL HAPPEN.

*The Action Groups SABRE and SABRE-OWL have been formed to coordinate opposition to these applications.
For further information please email sabre2023@btinternet.com*