



Outlook

West Suffolk Local Plan 'Call for Sites' Update

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Good afternoon, the message below is sent to town and parish clerks in West Suffolk on behalf of Cllr Frank Stennett, West Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Planning.

West Suffolk Local Plan 'Call for Sites' Update

Good afternoon

I'm aware that a number of our town and parish councils have been contacted by residents with concerns about housing site proposals submitted through West Suffolk Council's recent Local Plan 'call for sites' process.

While I can't comment on the merit or otherwise of any particular site here, this message is intended to aid you in responding directly to those concerns.

West Suffolk is at an early stage in preparing a new local plan for the area. First steps in this process have included publication of a local plan timetable and scoping consultation in June of this year. A 'call for sites' consultation has also been undertaken to inform preparation of the new local plan. Sites have been submitted by landowners and developers for consideration for a range of uses including housing, employment, infrastructure, and green infrastructure.

In total we have had 328 sites submitted by developers and landowners, some of whom have decided to carry out their own public engagement about their sites.

Each site is now being assessed by West Suffolk Council in accordance with government guidance to understand if it is potentially suitable, available, and deliverable. We are working to publish a map including details of all 328 sites next month, and then our initial assessment of them in the autumn. This initial site assessment process does not make decisions about the allocation of sites in the Local Plan.

The outcomes of the scoping consultation and site assessments will inform the next stage of consultation on the local plan in 2027 which will seek the views of local communities on how new housing growth is to be distributed across the district over the plan period. There will also be a further public consultation scheduled for 2028 on a draft Local Plan for West Suffolk.

So, if you are contacted by residents, the key messages at this stage are:

- This is an early stage in the preparation of the new West Suffolk Local Plan.
- No decisions have been made on the sites submitted to West Suffolk Council.
- West Suffolk Council is assessing over 300 sites.
- West Suffolk is listening to the concerns of local residents.
- West Suffolk Council will publish details later in the year including of those that meet the first cut (are deemed available, suitable, and deliverable).
- There will then be further work on the plan.
- There will a public consultation in 2027 seeking views on spatial strategy options and the distribution of housing. No decisions will be made on the allocation of sites at this stage.
- A further stage of public consultation will be undertaken in 2028 on a full draft local plan which will include proposed allocations.
- Local residents can register on our local plan consultation system on <https://westsuffolk.inconsult.uk/system/register>

As always town and parish councils as well as our own West Suffolk councillors, will be equipped to help ensure that their local communities are engaged and are encouraged to have their say at the two stages of public consultation.

I hope that the above is useful to you. We will also issue a news release to reiterate that the sites are still being assessed and no decisions have been made yet.

Kind regards

Cllr Frank Stennett
Cabinet Member for Planning
West Suffolk Council

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