



SAVE FRITH WOOD & SW BILLERICAY

The outlook for Billericay in Basildon Council's draft Local Plan is now much worse than when we were last consulted, especially for the South-West.

Basildon Council now plans:-

- 3,000 homes on Billericay's Green Belt – 2,000 of these in the SW of our town.
- 4 large sites in other parts of town, including a much larger allocation at Potash Road.
- a counter-productive 'Relief Road', to go through ancient Frith Wood - or very close.

The last consultation showed that Billericay wanted a lower housing target, one that serves local needs, but not London's overflow.

Our Council has responded by nearly doubling the number of homes planned for our Green Belt.

BAG is working with the Billericay District Residents' Association, the Billericay Society and the people of the town to strive for a moderate, sustainable, common-sense outcome. It won't be easy, but together we have a fighting chance.

You can help.

Think of a Number

The Local Plan is between drafts. It began by proposing around 15000 homes, but appears to now propose **20,000** homes in the borough to be built over 20 years. We believe this is too many:-

- The Council propose **20,000 homes** but local Basildon Borough people require only around **10,000**.
- **9,000** homes can be built in the borough without using any Green Belt.
- **The Council has no obligation to build on any Green Belt** – though we acknowledge there is a frustrating grey area between ministerial commitments and actual practice.
- There are **no proposals** for additional employment in our town so commuting to work will be the only solution.
- **Very few homes will be genuinely affordable.** Market prices will be determined by those moving out from London but still commuting into the capital.
- The Plan will see Billericay **grow by 25%** with the population of South Essex as a whole growing by a similar amount.

To what extent will we see the investment in infrastructure necessary to accommodate 25% more residents?

How will the A127, local roads and junctions, railways, hospitals, community healthcare, schools and other services we take for granted cope with this surge in demand?

We have seen no evidence that sufficient investment can or will be made.

What Can You Do?

You can write to one of your three 'Burstead' ward councillors who sit on Basildon Council:

Cllr Andrew Baggot:

AndrewBaggott@hotmail.com

Cllr Kevin Blake:

Kevin.Blake@members.basildon.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Moore:

Richard.Moore@members.basildon.gov.uk

The Councillors hold monthly surgeries at Billericay library. We've found them generous with their time, but we've heard little to encourage us that they will press for a lower Housing Target.

If you do write, please be civil.

More importantly, you should engage with the next formal consultation. The number of people objecting will be important as public opinion is meant to be a factor when considering taking land out of Green Belt.

This consultation is expected around May, but the timing could change. Therefore please:-

Keep in the loop with BAG

Website: www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk
Progress reports and information plus the opportunity to sign up for our 'MailBAG' electronic newsletters:

Facebook: "Save Billericay from Housing Developments" - 1500 residents subscribe to this page which is an ideal location for news, chat and interaction:

Twitter: Follow @Billericay_AG

Frith Wood and Laindon Common

Frith Wood and Laindon Common are rich and irreplaceable habitats set within an accessible 'green wedge' which contributes greatly to Billericay's character.

The proposed road would go through the Wood or close by, with hundreds of homes in its immediate vicinity. Either route would have a serious impact on local ecology, landscape and public amenity.

The Counter-productive 'Relief Road'

Billericay's roads are already overloaded and will struggle to cope with even modest levels of house-building. The 'Relief Road' is intended to relieve Sun Corner and the Tye Common / London Road junction.

There are other ways to relieve Sun Corner, and the Relief Road idea is counter-productive because it will attract traffic to SW Billericay, even without the further traffic generated by the 2,000 homes being built to pay for the road.

BAG's Aim

There is no government requirement for Councils to use Green Belt for housing. Basildon is choosing to do so. The SW Billericay Development Framework should be dropped, and with it the Relief Road. The land should remain Green Belt.

We are not calling for the development to be moved elsewhere in the Borough. The already overloaded South Essex infrastructure is unsuitable for the level of development proposed.

We are calling for a much more moderate overall Housing Target.

SW Billericay High-Level Development Framework

Relief Road, alternative route & development areas\number of houses – Source: Basildon Council plus notes by BAG

