

View Comment

Comment Information

Document Section	<u>Local Plan to 2030 - Publication Draft</u> <u>TOPIC POLICIES</u> <u>SECTION E - COMMUNITY FACILITIES</u> <u>Meeting the needs of the community Content</u>
Comment ID	ALP/1045
Respondent	Kennington Community Forum (Christopher Morley)
Response Date	06 Aug 2016
Current Status	Accepted
Do you consider this part of the document is Sound?	No
On which grounds do you consider the document unsound? (if applicable)	Not Positively Prepared, Not Effective
Do you consider the Document is Legally Compliant?	Yes

Comment

Section 5.406 of the plan states "The provision of good quality community infrastructure and services designed around people and their cultural, leisure, health, learning, social and wellbeing needs is fundamental to the creation of strong, vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities. As Ashford grows and the demand for new or enhanced community infrastructure increases, there is a need to apply strategic policies to ensure appropriate and sustainable provision that supports this demand. This will mean that some community facilities and services may be locally based and aimed at meeting the needs of the local residents in that particular area, whilst others may be more strategic and will need to be delivered in larger facilities and spaces which serve the wider town or Borough.

Section 5.411 states "Retaining existing facilities wherever practical is the most sustainable way of enhancing and expanding provision. This position is supported by the NPPF which recognises the importance of community and social facilities and requires that LPAs guard against the unnecessary loss of this valued provision, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day to day needs."

Bockhanger Community Centre, Bybrook Road, Kennington, comprises key community infrastructure of the type identified by this draft plan. The existing Community Centre was originally sized as a badminton court (cf Ashford Draft Sports and Indoor Facilities Strategy (2013) "Sport England Sports Facility Calculator identifies the additional need for 7 badminton court sports hall space") and a cinema; and the building incorporates Bockhanger Library. The adjacent public realm includes paved and green open space, a MUGA, and a youth shelter.

The whole site is in desperate need of refresh, following ABC's suspension of previous regeneration plans and the absence of any successor strategy.

What changes do you suggest to make the document legally compliant or sound?

This site, comprising Bockhanger Community Centre, Bockhanger Library, local shops, public paved open space, public green open space, and youth facilities including a shelter and MUGA, requires a specific Policy, drawn up in consultation with local residents and stakeholders, to support refreshed community facilities.

Do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? Yes

Does your representation relate to an omission site (a site that has not been included). For example a site for Housing, Employment, Travellers, or Local Green Spaces.

Please supply details of the omission site.

Attachments