

# FRPC Parish Council for The Farnhams

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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Slough Borough Local Plan Issues and Options Regulation 18 consultation dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Farnham Royal Parish Council (FRPC) is responding on behalf of its parishioners (over 3000 residents) following initial consultation given the limited timescale available and information taken from responses to a Parish Plan survey undertaken in 2016.

FRPC do not feel it is useful to respond to the individual questions (Q1-11) set out in the Issues and Options Consultation Document. This response addresses issues raised by the proposals for the Northern Expansion of Slough (Slough BC Option J1).

We have had sight of the most recent draft response to this consultation from Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils and fully support the approach they have taken.

In particular:-

1 Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils have within the last year been in the process of developing their own Local Plan for 2014-2036. As part of that process they have undertaken thorough reviews and consultations and their own Regulation 18 consultation. As a result of that process the green spaces in our parish currently identified in Slough BC Option J1 were tested and decisions have been made by them to not permit any development on those spaces. This is notwithstanding that Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils have their own unmet housing needs of 5800 dwellings.

2 We would emphasise that the NPPF provides that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils have not decided that such exceptional circumstances exist and FRPC supports this position.

We would not support any Northern expansion of Slough as proposed by Slough. To do so would fundamentally destroy the character of the semi-rural settlements that mark the boundary between Slough and South Bucks.

Farnham Royal has a unique heritage and includes a Conservation Area. It is bounded by the adjacent Burnham Beeches and some ancient woodlands in the surrounding copses but is under provided with public open green space. Farnham Royal also has a unique cultural heritage.

It is therefore important to ensure this village retains its separate cultural and historical identity by maintaining as much of the Green Belt buffer zone between it and Slough as is possible. SBDC should work with Slough to agree and strengthen the buffer zones that exist at present.

Yours faithfully

*Hilda Holder*

Mrs. K. H. Holder  
Clerk