

Editor's Note

This exercise moves forward from the "Call for Sites" reported in the July edition of the Voice. Local sites are detailed on the Parish Council website - those in Borough Green and nearby are :-

Southways, North of Tolsey Mead, Crouch Lane, Office Site Quarry Hill Road, North of Fairfield Road, West of Wrotham Road, Land off Dryland Road, Celcon Works, Dark Hill Farm, A-Z Geographers Fairfield Road, Land at Borough Green Station, Joco Pit East, Little Harps St Mary's Platt, Land near Potters Mede.

The Local Plan also goes into more detail about the consideration of development opportunities beyond existing settlement confines. One such area is land to the north of Borough Green and Platt and this is what is has to say -

"At Borough Green and Platt a major initiative for new development to the north of the villages extending eastwards to Nepicar was put forward by a consortium of landowners at the call for sites stage. The proposition is for very significant housing and employment development incorporating a new road which would link through the development from east to west. The extent to which this could function as relief to traffic and air quality conditions on the A25 will need to be assessed fully. Borough Green is one of the larger villages in the Borough and a local centre, having a range of services including a main line railway station. It also falls within the Tonbridge/Sevenoaks housing market area where it will be expected that provision for growth will be made. In that context, consideration of development in this Local Plan seems right.

Part of the land in the west of the site is practically available but there is less clarity over land generally to the east of the A227 where mineral workings are still live. This matter remains to be fully examined to practically test whether comprehensive development is a realistic prospect in the timeframe of this Local Plan to 2031. Clearly development of the whole of the land here would bring substantial change to the local area. It would also mean removing a significant area of land from the Green Belt, albeit contained to an extent by roads which would then provide a firm boundary moving into the future. It would, however, also be an opportunity to provide a level of investment in the village centre of Borough Green along with necessary community facilities. The scale of development could provide a long term supply of housing and employment for the borough as a whole, in the way that strategic sites of this nature have previously done in the current Development Plan."