



# **Dorset Council Local Plan Options Consultation August 2025**



Dorset is changing – help us shape it.

Dorset Council is preparing a new Local Plan to guide development. The consultation explores how much development we should provide and identifies opportunity sites for new homes, employment land and traveller sites. It also identifies areas of opportunity for wind and solar power.

The Local Plan options consultation is available to view at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing). You can comment on the Local Plan by completing all or part of this survey online or by using this form. You can also view the site options on a map online and make your comments. Alternatively comment on the site options using the site response form. You can view a paper copy of the Local Plan Options Consultation at your local Dorset library or at County Hall, Dorchester.

If you need help with the survey, please contact the Planning Policy team at [planningpolicyconsult@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicyconsult@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or 01305 838334.

You are able to give your views between 18 August 2025 and 13 October 2025.

**The consultation will begin on  
18 August 2025 and end on 13 October 2025**

## **How can I make a comment?**

To give your views, please:

- Make sure you give your name and either postal or email address along with your postcode so that your response can be considered appropriately.
- Use the official form.
- Make your comments within the consultation period to ensure they are considered.
- If you are part of a group that shares a common view, please include a list of the contact details of each person (including names, addresses, emails, telephone numbers and signatures) along with a completed form providing details of the named lead representative.
- Continue on separate sheets if necessary.

Please note:

- Representations cannot be treated as confidential. By completing a representation, you agree to your name (but not your address) and comments being made available for public viewing.
- The council do not accept any responsibility for the contents of the comments submitted. We reserve the right to remove any comments containing defamatory, abusive or malicious allegations.

## **You can respond:**

### **Online**

View the consultation and submit your response online via the following link:

**[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing)**

The benefits of providing your response this way are as follows:

- less impact on the environment as we do not need to use paper or postage
- you will be emailed a copy of your response as confirmation once submitted
- you will be able to start your response, save it, and return to it at a later date - a confirmation email will send you a link to where you left off
- using the online survey greatly assists our analysis of the responses, enabling more efficient and effective consideration of the issues raised

### **E-mail**

We can also accept responses emailed to us, preferably using this form.

**[planningpolicyconsult@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicyconsult@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)**

### **Written responses**

There are paper copies of the response form available upon request for those without internet or computer access.

Please telephone **01305 838334** to request a copy.

Responses returned by post should reference the **Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation 2025** and be sent to the **Spatial Planning Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ**.

# Part A

Please complete one part A form

|                 | Individual                        | Agent (if applicable)            |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name*           | Mrs Sandra Hillier (Parish Clerk) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organisation    | Bradford Abbas Parish Council     | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address line 1* | 3 The Bungalows                   | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address line 2  | Beer Hackett                      | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address line 3  | Click or tap here to enter text.  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Town            | Sherborne                         | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Postcode*       | DT9 6QR                           | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email address*  | bradfordabbas@dorset-aptc.gov.uk  | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Client's details if applicable:

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Name*           | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organisation    | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address line 1* | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address line 2  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address line 3  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Town            | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Postcode*       | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email address*  | Click or tap here to enter text. |

\*essential fields

## Group representations

If your representation is on behalf of a group, ensure the lead representative completes the contact details box above. Also, please state here how many people support the representation:

|               |
|---------------|
| 7 Councillors |
|---------------|

# Part B

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## Opportunity sites

Which site are you commenting on?

Thornford and Yetminster

## What are the main considerations for this site?

- a. Specific design requirements ☐
- b. Natural environment and ecology ☐
- c. Landscape and visual ☐
- d. Heritage ☐
- e. Flood risk ☒
- f. Amenity, health, education ☒
- g. Transport (access and movement) ☒
- h. Green Belt (if applicable) ☐
- i. Other issues ☐

Please provide further details on these considerations, and how they might be addressed

The roads linking Yetminster to Thornford regularly flood, especially at Bow bridge leading into Yetminster where the River Wriggle crosses the road, Highways are fully aware and have stated that there is little that can be done to alleviate the situation. In recent times the problem has already been exacerbated by the new houses close to Folly Farm. The run off from the estate runs down the road creating a flood. Extending the development and hard surfacing will only exacerbate the problem by increasing the run off.

The road between Thornford and Bradford Abbas regularly floods, especially as you leave Thornford along Longford Road and again at Smiths Bridge as you enter Bradford Abbas Parish. More houses on LA/THOR/003 and LA/THOR/004 will only exacerbate the surface water flooding and will create hard landscaping preventing the absorption of surface water.

The regular surface water flood is a major problem of access for carers, people going to work and for school journeys.

The possible construction of 400 more homes will create stress on the village schools in the three villages of Thornford, Yetminster and Bradford Abbas for Primary age children. The need for secondary places will also be increased and possible extra buses would need to be provided to get children to the only Secondary school in Sherborne.

The health facilities in the area are already stretched with a doctor's surgery in Yetminster, but not one in Bradford Abbas or Thornford, some local residents already have to go to Sherborne for a doctor's surgery and Sherborne itself is going to have a major increase in residents.

The combined effect of possibly up to 400 houses on the sites in these two villages will have a major impact on road usage as there is no public bus service. This in turn will affect Bradford Abbas as cars cut through the village to get to the A30. The A30 itself is a major problem as the roundabout at the bottom of Babylon Hill is a bottle-neck with a dual carriageway narrowing to single, narrow lanes. This is already causing problems with many vehicles, including HGV's trying to avoid the junction by cutting through Bradford Abbas and the neighbouring villages of Thornford and Yetminster. Anything that increases vehicle numbers along the A30 road will exacerbate the problem.

The nearest train station is at Thornford, with trains that run two hourly and there is only space for 4 cars to park and no disabled access, similarly at Yetminster with only 4 spaces and 1 disabled bay. The main line is accessed at Sherborne. All of this results on more vehicle movements. The Transport Plan has no suggestion for improvements to roads other than by connecting the main hubs, but, one has to get to a hub first!!

Employment is also a problem the sites indicated in Sherborne are small. With possible 400 more houses in the two villages there will be a need for employment, many will go towards Yeovil in Somerset, the access being via Bradford Abbas and again with no regular bus service, this will mean increased vehicle movements on already busy village lanes that are narrow and used by large tractors for much of the year.

More thought needs to be made in tackling the two main issues of flooded roads due to surface water and run-off from fields and highways difficulties both locally and on the A30 before there are large numbers of houses being built. 400 houses could mean at least 800 more car journeys on the roads what with commuting to work, taking children to and from school, to get to shops. |



