

Basingstoke & Deane BC Local Plan 2011-2029

Policy EM2 – Strategic Gaps

Comment ID 113 – Julian Crawley

1. Original Comment

Many congratulations to BDBC for proposing the Strategic Gaps - however these need to last longer than the previous version. The concern is that the current Basingstoke - Sherborne St John gap has been defined immediately following the approval of further development of a greenfield site which specifically narrows the current gap. A minimum life-time should be defined - not just until the next round of development applications.

The Basingstoke - Sherborne St John Strategic Gap is insufficient; it should extend to the west of the A340 - across to the A339.

- A minimum life-time of 30 years should be designated for Strategic Gaps.
- The Basingstoke - Sherborne St John Strategic Gap should be extended to the west of the A340 – to the A339.

2. The Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan

This Plan is still ‘work in progress’ due for referendum in the first half of 2016; however a poll of SSJ Parish Residents via the N Plan Questionnaire in September 2014 provided the following responses:

- **95% of respondents considered that the maintenance of a Strategic Gap between SSJ and Basingstoke ‘Important’. 86% of respondents considered it ‘Very Important’.**
- **The main hope for Sherborne St John residents is that SSJ retains its Village identity**
- **The main fear for Sherborne St John residents is that SSJ becomes enveloped by Basingstoke.**
- **All (100%) respondents welcomed the ‘Strong sense of community’ in SSJ.**

Approximately 50% of residents responded.

3. Desired Outcome of Comment ID 113

The reason for bringing this to the Inspector’s attention:-

There is overwhelming support for the Sherborne St John – Basingstoke Strategic Gap in Sherborne St John; we would like to ensure its adoption in this Local Plan and, if possible, into the next.

**Julian Crawley
September 2015**