

# BGPC – How to respond to the consultation

## Option 1- Portal

The most effective way of responding is to access the Preferred Options Consultation Portal, hosted on the Warwick District Council web-site. The Preferred Options web page can be found at [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk)

Scroll down to find the **Preferred Options Consultation** page and click on this link.

To make comments on the Portal, you will need to **register an account**, including providing an email address and password.

Look for the Preferred Options Consultation **Portal**, where you can provide your comments on various sections of the Plan. Go to **Section 4** – Sustainable Development requirements and scroll down to **Table 5**. [Comments on SG01 can be entered here](#).

You can also explore the proposals further on an **interactive map**.

Rather than reply to the whole document, which is huge, you can choose to **reply to a few different sections, to make specific points of concern**. You can reply to as many of these as you want. However, once you have made your response, you can't change it.

Much of the Burton Green Parish Council focus has been on **the proposal to develop Green Belt land South of Coventry (SGO1) for housing**. This is only 1 of 34 such proposals, across South Warwickshire. Table 5 lists these proposals and you can comment on any or all of them.

## Option 2 – Use the Comment Form provided

The comment form has been developed to provide a template to answer each of the four question types that can be found throughout the document. This form therefore contains four 'question templates'. Each question template requires input from you to indicate exactly which part of the plan you are commenting on.

Forms should be returned by **11:59pm on Friday 7 March 2025**, via email or by post to

Email: [swlp@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:swlp@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Address: Chief Executive,  
Warwick District Council,  
Town Hall, Parade,  
Royal Leamington Spa,  
CV32 4AT

## Option 3 – just write in!

**IF neither of the above methods works for you**, we suggest you write directly to the Chief Executive, with a heading of: South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation – Preferred Options.

## Table 4 – Section 4 of the Preferred Options Consultation Portal – SG01

### General points

The comments below relate to comments you may agree with relating specifically to SG01 and can be lodged on the Portal under Section 4 ,Table 5. They provide a flavour of the response that the Parish Council as a statutory consultee is likely to make. You may agree with some or all of these and, if so, **we recommend that you maybe pick 2 or 3 from the list and edit and submit this as your personal response, as you see fit.**

If you want to delve deeper, we suggest you also look at:

- The Sustainability Report
- The detailed analysis of sites in SG01 contained in HELAA-B
- The review of the Green Belt (Phase 1)

There may well be other **responses you would like to make on other sections in the Portal** e.g. to comments around infrastructure, the lack of ambition to redevelop existing town centres (building up rather than out), on measures to reduce pollution and contain the huge carbon footprint of development. **We encourage you to consider a wide range of responses.**

### Comments relating to Section 4 Table 5

#### In practice, SG01 is too small to meet the requirements for sustainable development.

SG01 is actually much smaller than it appears on the Map. It consists of 11 individual sites. One of these, University of Warwick, accounts for 300 Ha of the 534 Ha and includes zero housing development. The other 5000 proposed dwellings are concentrated in the remaining 234 Ha of agricultural land, mostly Green Belt.

Looking at individual sites, only 3 out of the 10 individual sites scores better than the average:

- Land south of Westwood Heath road
- Land East of Bockenden Lane
- Land South of Westwood Heath Road

Developing these 3/11 sites would **create only 220 houses over 8 Ha**, not a sufficient volume for SG01 to be categorised as a development area.

#### The proposal to develop SG01 doesn't score well as a sustainable development option.

SG01 scores significantly less well, using the Council methodology, than the average of the 34 proposals across South Warwickshire. It is therefore not a good option.

This is evidenced by the details contained in HELAA-B. The HELAA-B identifies a “harm” score, the higher the score the more harm done through development. The average HELAA-B “harm score” across South Warwickshire is 44.7. Excluding the University of Warwick campus, the

average HELAA-B “harm score” is 50.4, so rather than being a good, sustainable site for development , it scores **13% worse than the average.**

### **SG01 is mostly Green Belt and this has been inappropriately assessed.**

This assessment includes a methodology whereby **Green Belt designation only receives a 6% weighting.** The Phase 1 Green Belt review identifies that these sites perform well against the functions of the Green Belt and therefore should not be considered for housing development. Even if “well performing Green Belt” is not considered an absolute constraint, **a 6% weighting appears very low as an overall weighting in the assessment.**

### **SG01 is not just Green Belt designated, it is good quality agricultural land**

We think that the value of agricultural land should play a bigger part in the assessment as this has a big economic impact as well as impacting carbon footprint (e.g., if we don’t grow our own food locally, we have to import it from abroad). The assessment of the quality of agricultural land (comprising the 10/11 sites in SG01) shows that this is **largely ALC Grade 2 land** (good quality agricultural land) and so should be avoided for housing development, based on advice in the National Planning Framework.

### **SG01 is not sustainable without considerable investment in new infrastructure, for which there are no plans and no budget**

The Sustainability Assessment identifies a **lack of infrastructure** (schools, roads, primary care facilities) as a constraint to sustainable development. SG01 has previously been assessed for suitability for housing and this assessment reached the same conclusion. The Sustainability report also refers to a capacity on SG01 of only 500 houses, presumably the issues it identifies would be greater if the assessment were for 4800 houses. No new funding or specific proposals are made to address the lack of infrastructure.

### **Development in SG01 should not be considered in isolation from other development on the Solihull boundary, just a couple of miles away.**

Burton Green, unusually, sits on the border of 3 Local Authorities and the **proposed development in Warwickshire Green Belt should be considered alongside proposals in Solihull District.** Outline planning permission had been granted for over 1000 new homes to the south-east of Balsall Common, with other smaller proposals for development reaching out towards Burton Green. This land has previously been assessed by SMBC as high performing Green Belt and protects BG, Coventry and Kenilworth from the urban sprawl of the West Midlands metropolis.