

## OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Responses to Local Plan Part 2: Review of Settlement Boundaries

Responses 144053670 and 246044517 argue that the decision not to review village settlement boundaries is unsound and propose boundary changes to provide for housing developments in Otterbourne. Otterbourne Parish Council strongly disagrees with this argument and particularly opposes the proposed changes in the settlement boundary.

In order to contribute to the development of the Winchester Local Plan, Otterbourne Parish Council undertook a survey of all parishioners to ascertain their views on a wide variety of planning issues. This included views on changes to the settlement boundaries, the importance of the gap between neighbouring settlements and possible exception sites for affordable housing. Results of the survey have subsequently been discussed at a number of Parish Council meetings. There was strong support for the retention of the existing boundaries, and the 'green gap' between settlements.

1. Ref. 144053670 The proposal to extend the settlement boundary to include the field bordering Waterworks Road is not supported by residents or the Parish Council. While the survey showed limited support for the development of small scale affordable housing projects, the parish council considers this particularly inappropriate as an exception site. There are already severe problems with traffic and parking on this private road which borders both the field identified and Otterbourne Copse, a well-used and highly valued area of community owned woodland.
2. Ref. 246044517 The proposal to reduce the 'green gap' by allowing development on the Compton nursery land would effectively merge the settlements of Compton and Otterbourne behind the open space of the field that borders Main Road, Otterbourne

Otterbourne Parish Council views the policy of the retention of existing settlement boundaries and green gaps as sound and based on appropriate consultation. Any restriction on housing development which results from this is adequately compensated for by the potential for exception sites when the need for additional housing has been identified. The Parish Council is already working with WCC and the Footsteps project to develop affordable housing in Otterbourne and we would wish to see the completion of this before considering the need for further exception sites.

20<sup>th</sup> June 2016