

## FAQ Sheet (for residents and common concerns)

### Local Plan Consultation – Frequently Asked Questions

#### When is the Consultation?

The consultation is open for 6 weeks from Monday 29 June to Sunday 9 August 2026 11PM

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#### Why are you preparing a new Local Plan?

We are required to produce an up-to-date Local Plan to guide future development. It helps ensure that growth is planned properly, with the right homes, jobs and infrastructure in the right places.

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#### What about the Local Plan at Examination?

Stroud District Council is starting work on a new Local Plan because the Government now requires all councils to prepare plans under a new, updated system. Although the current draft Local Plan is still at examination, it will continue through that process separately. Starting a new plan does not replace or stop the existing one, it simply ensures the Council is meeting new national requirements and planning for the longer term. Updates on the current Local Plan examination are available here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/stroud-district-local-plan-review/local-plan-examination/>

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#### Have decisions already been made?

No.

This is a **very early stage consultation**.

We are gathering views before developing options — **nothing has been decided yet**.

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#### Why do you need so many new homes?

The Government requires the Council to plan for at least **846 homes per year**.

This is based on a national method for calculating housing need.

- Some homes already have planning permission
  - But more land will still be needed
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### **Can the Council choose to build fewer homes?**

The Local Plan must meet identified housing needs as far as possible.

However, the Council can take into account:

- environmental constraints
  - infrastructure capacity
  - deliverability of sites
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### **Are you deciding where development will go?**

No.

We are **not selecting sites at this stage**.

This consultation is about:

- priorities
- issues
- and broad approaches

Site selection will come later.

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### **Why are you showing sites on a map?**

The map shows sites that have been submitted by landowners or developers.

We are required to:

- consider all submitted sites
  - assess whether they are suitable
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### **Does being on the map mean a site will be developed?**

No — absolutely not.

- Many sites will be ruled out
- Some may not be suitable
- Others may not be needed

The map is **not a list of preferred sites**

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### **Why include the map at all?**

It is provided to:

- show what land might be available
- help people understand possible patterns of development

So you can consider growth options realistically

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### **What are the main constraints in the District?**

Key constraints include:

- Flood risk
- The Cotswolds AONB
- Landscape sensitivity
- Limited road and infrastructure capacity

These will play a major role in shaping decisions.

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### **What about infrastructure?**

Infrastructure is a key part of the plan, including:

- transport
- schools
- healthcare
- green spaces

We are asking for your views on what is most needed.

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### **What happens after this consultation?**

We will:

1. Review all responses
  2. Develop different options
  3. Assess those options
  4. Consult again on more detailed proposals
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### **Will there be more chances to comment?**

Yes.

There will be **further consultation stages** as the Local Plan develops.

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### **How can I take part?**

You can:

- Complete the consultation survey
  - Share your views on priorities, growth and infrastructure
  - Suggest issues we should consider
  - Agree to sign up to our database to be kept up to date
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### **Why is my input important?**

Your views will help us:

- understand local priorities
  - identify key challenges
  - shape the direction of the new Local Plan
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### **Why is the consultation online and not based on roadshows or in-person events?**

This consultation is being carried out online because the Government has introduced a digital-first approach to Local Plan preparation.

At this early stage, the consultation is focused on high-level issues and priorities, rather than detailed proposals or specific sites. This means an online format is the most effective way to gather a wide range of views.

The online survey has been designed to:

- make it easier for people to take part at a time that suits them
- ensure responses can be recorded and analysed consistently
- support a faster plan-making process

We recognise that some people value face-to-face engagement. At later stages of the Local Plan, when more detailed options and proposals are developed, we will use a wider range of engagement methods.

If you are unable to use the online form, support is available and alternative arrangements can be made.

## **Final message**

This is your chance to:

**Help shape how Stroud District grows**  
**Raise issues that matter to you**  
**Influence decisions at the earliest stage**

### **Need help taking part?**

We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to take part in this consultation.

If you are finding the online form difficult to use or would prefer to respond in a different way, please contact us:

**[local.plan@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@stroud.gov.uk)**

We will be happy to help.