

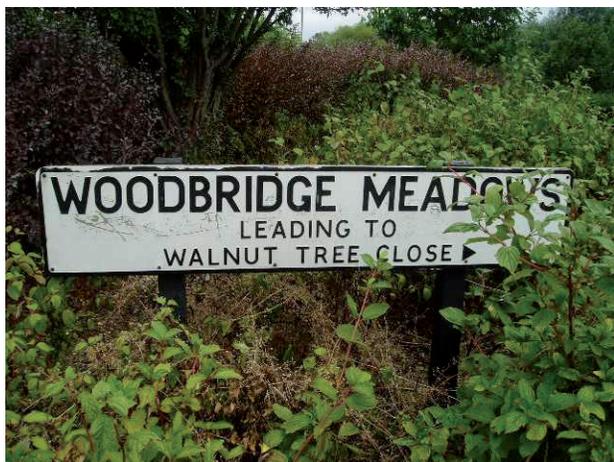
Woodbridge Meadows SPD

Sustainability Appraisal Consultation



What is Sustainability Appraisal? The Council is using a process called a **Sustainability Appraisal** to test the documents, which it prepares for the Guildford Local Development Framework, to ensure that they do not conflict with the aims of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This means: living within environmental limits, protection and enhancement of the physical and natural environment; using resources and energy as efficiently as possible; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well being; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and achieving a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment. The Council has prepared a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework**, which sets out 19 SA objectives. It has already, and will continue to, update this framework to ensure it is as relevant and effective as possible.



What is a Final Sustainability Appraisal Report?

The SA Framework was used to test the draft Woodbridge Meadows Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The process and findings of this appraisal are set out in a Final **Sustainability Appraisal Report**, which identifies the key likely impacts of the SPD on social, environmental and economic interests.

The appraisal findings help the Council to understand which of the options are the most sustainable. There will also be other considerations in deciding which options to take forward to the next stage – including your comments received

during this consultation – so the Report also highlights potential mitigation measures and monitoring, so that any of the options could be delivered in a more sustainable way and their performance can later be measured.

What does the Report recommend? The main conclusions can be summarised as follows:

The main significant **beneficial effects** would affect these SA objectives:

Sustainable economic growth - The SPD intrinsically supports sustainable growth since it seeks to reuse employment land in a more efficient manner with improved accessibility by a variety of modes. The approach of maximising use for employment on this site supports this objective since the site is accessible from the Town, railway and A3.

Reduce road congestion and pollution levels - Action is specified which would improve accessibility by public transport, cycling and walking and would also help reduce congestion and contribute to road safety and reduce emissions.

Create and sustain vibrant communities - A key objective of the SPD is to create an attractive and accessible place, which contributes to local distinctiveness and character. High quality design criteria is central to the SPD and specific measures such as requiring buildings to be set back from the railway embankments seek to address particular environmental issues on the site.



The main significant **negative effects** would affect this SA objective:

Increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources - Given the incremental approach to redevelopment, the SPD risks missing an opportunity to secure a substantial increase in renewable energy capacity.

How have these recommendations influenced the SPD's?

Drawing on these findings the Sustainability Appraisal makes a series of recommendations about how the SPD can be improved before its implementation. The Council has amended the draft SPD in accordance with these recommendations where appropriate. Some of the measures identified may be considered for inclusion in the future, when comments received during this consultation are analysed and the SPD is updated prior to adoption.

Ultimately, effectiveness of the SPD from the point of view of sustainable development will rely upon an effective partnership between the Council, existing and prospective developers and occupiers and the wider community.

How can I find out more?

Check out www.guildford.gov.uk to view an electronic version of the full SA Report and this pamphlet (including comments form).

Email us if you would like an electronic copy sent to you, or

Visit Planning Helpdesk, Council Offices, Millmead, Guildford

Copies of this document can be made available in different formats including different languages, Braille, large print and audio.

Have your say

If you would like to **comment on the methodology or findings of these Sustainability Appraisal Reports**, for details of the Scoping Report (SA Framework) used, or to simply **ask a question**, please contact us:

Email: planningpolicy@guildford.gov.uk

Write: Planning Policy, Environmental Policy and Design Services, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4BB

Or Phone: (01483) 444 4672 Victoria Potts, Policy Planner

A comments box for your suggestions is printed on the last page of the questionnaire.