



Little Bromley Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Neil Stock OBE Clerk: Elizabeth Ridout CiLCA

To: Gary Guiver - Corporate Director (Planning & Community)
Cc: Cllr Carlo Guglielmi - Chairman of Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee
Cllr Andy Baker - Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning
Lisa Hastings - Monitoring Officer

Monday 3rd August 2026

Dear all,

Re: Procedural and Substantive Objection to the Reinstatement of Site MSA20 (Little Bromley) at the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee – 8 June 2026

Little Bromley Parish Council writes to lodge a formal objection in the strongest possible terms to the decision taken by the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee on 8 June 2026 to overturn officers' recommendation to delete Site MSA20 (Land south of Shop Road, Little Bromley) and instead retain it as a housing allocation, with a reduced indicative capacity of 10 dwellings.

This decision is procedurally flawed, contrary to the evidence, and inconsistent with the principles of sound plan-making required under national planning policy.

1. Procedural Failure: Parish Council not notified and unable to participate

Little Bromley Parish Council received no notification whatsoever that the Committee would be considering the future of Site MSA20 at its meeting on 8 June 2026, other than an email sent to the Parish Clerk one working day before the meeting. As a result, the Parish Council was prevented from attending, prevented from speaking, and prevented from responding to statements made by others at the meeting.

This failure is particularly serious because:

- The site is owned by the husband of the Ward Councillor for Little Bromley, whose interest has been declared.
- The Parish Council therefore had no district councillor present to represent the village, and no opportunity to present the extensive evidence previously submitted.
- The Committee heard from a developer's agent, but not from the Parish Council, despite our formal representation and the significant local impacts.

This constitutes a clear imbalance of participation and undermines the fairness and transparency of the decision-making process.

2. Officers recommended deletion of MSA20 based on evidence

The Committee minutes record that officers recommended deletion of MSA20 on the basis of:

“representations from Anglian Water specifically in respect of sewage capacity limitations at Little Bentley, Little Bromley, and Tendring Heath, and its explicit suggestion that those areas were best treated as open countryside to which no additional development be directed.”

Officers further noted:

“the remoteness from jobs, shops, services and facilities and local impacts on village character.”

These findings exactly mirror the Parish Council’s own evidence submitted in March 2026, including:

“Little Bromley is a small, dispersed rural parish with no footpaths, no street lighting, no mains sewerage, limited potable water supply... and a road network already operating at capacity and unsafe for pedestrians.”

The Parish Council’s evidence was therefore fully aligned with the technical evidence and the officers’ professional judgement.

3. Committee overturned deletion without any new evidence

Despite the clear evidence base, the Committee resolved:

“that sites MSA19 (Little Bentley), MSA20 (Little Bromley) and MSA22 (Tendring Heath) are not deleted... on the basis that these sites could make a valuable contribution to local housing supply... and that... there should be a reasonable prospect of these developments coming forward... with appropriate alternative sewage treatment provision.”

This reasoning is not supported by any evidence:

- No technical report was presented demonstrating that alternative sewage treatment is feasible, deliverable, or environmentally acceptable.
- No highways, sustainability, or infrastructure evidence was provided to contradict officers’ concerns.
- No assessment was offered of the cumulative impact on a village with no services, no footways, no sewerage, and no safe pedestrian access.

The Committee’s decision therefore lacks evidential justification, contradicts the professional advice of officers, and is vulnerable to challenge at examination.

4. The decision undermines the soundness of the Local Plan

The National Planning Policy Framework requires Local Plans to be:

- Justified – based on proportionate evidence
- Effective – deliverable over the plan period
- Consistent with national policy – including sustainability and infrastructure capacity

Retaining MSA20 fails all three tests:

Not justified

The evidence from Anglian Water, officers, and the Parish Council all point to unsustainability and infrastructure constraints.

Not effective

A site requiring bespoke sewage treatment in a village with no services is not realistically deliverable.

Not consistent with national policy

Directing development to locations with no sewerage, no footways, no public transport, and no local facilities is incompatible with sustainable development principles.

The Committee's decision therefore places the Local Plan at serious risk of being found unsound.

5. Request for Immediate action

Little Bromley Parish Council still maintains its previously stated position that it strongly and overwhelmingly objects to the large-scale housing development proposed by policy MSA20 and hence formally requests that Tendring District Council:

1. **Reconsider the decision** to reinstate MSA20 in light of the procedural and evidential concerns set out above.
2. **Provide a written explanation** for why the Parish Council was given just one day's notice of the meeting and not invited to speak.
3. **Confirm** that a full reconsideration, with the parish council afforded equal, fair and reasonable opportunity to present evidence, will be facilitated in respect of MSA20.
4. **Ensure** that any future discussions of Little Bromley allocations include direct notification to the Parish Council.

6. Conclusion

The Parish Council's position remains unequivocal:

MSA20 is an unsustainable, unjustified, and inappropriate allocation that should be deleted from the Local Plan.

The decision taken on 8 June 2026 was procedurally flawed, contrary to the evidence, and inconsistent with sound plan-making. We therefore request urgent corrective action.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Neil Stock OBE (Chair)

Cllr Christine Barrett

Cllr Kate Hodgkiss

Cllr Tony Monger

Cllr Iain Smith

Little Bromley Parish Council