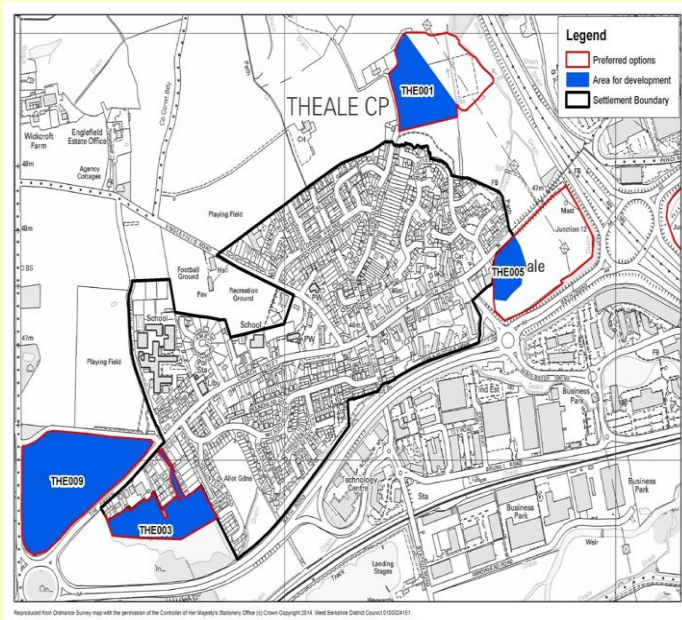




## PROPOSED HOUSING SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION

West Berkshire Council (WBC) has published "[Housing Site Allocations DPD Preferred Options](#)", which lists potential sites for residential development throughout West Berkshire.

Four of these sites are in Theale and if all proposed sites were progressed, this would increase the number of houses being developed by a further 313. (This is in addition to the number of dwellings for which planning permission has already been granted but development not completed, such as the "Lakeside" site and its 350 new homes, and 42 elsewhere, with a further 44 applied for). Below is a plan taken from the Preferred Options Document showing the areas of Theale being considered:



Location	Site Reference	Number of Homes
Former Sewage Works	THE001	88 homes
North Lakeside	THE003	50 homes
Land at Junction 12	THE005	50 homes
Land between A340 and The Green	THE009	125 homes

West Berkshire Council is inviting comments on the proposals. If you want to comment, please respond in one of the following ways:

Via the WBC consultation portal at the Council's website:

<http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/portal/hsaprefereoptions?pointId=3010536>

from where you can comment or download a consultation form (a Microsoft Word document called DPD\_Comment\_Form.docx")

By post to: Planning Policy, Planning and Countryside, West Berkshire Council, Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD

By e-mail to: [planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk)

By fax to: 01635 519408

However you provide your comments to the consultation, they must be submitted before Friday 12th Sept 2014.

Your Councillor Alan Macro has already documented his general concerns, as well as specific concerns regarding each site, on his website dedicated to Theale:

<http://www.theale.org.uk/housing-sites.html>

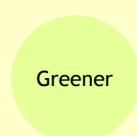
## THEALE'S FUTURE

### What we can /cannot do

Over the last few months we have been asking Theale Residents, via suggestion boxes at various locations around the village, for ideas on how life in Theale can be improved. The response has been a little disappointing and we have received only a small number of suggestions. Some of these suggestions concern the re-opening of shops, the closing of certain businesses and the prevention of further housing development in Theale but, as we have written in past issues, we have no power to action these. Other suggestions given us have included such items as: rebuild the primary school; extend the 20 mph speed limits; hold more community village events such as a regular village fete.

What we *can* do is inform and campaign. We bring actual or potential issues that could affect a large number of people to the attention of the community. Examples have been the IKEA development and dog fouling in public places. On this latter issue we have been able to arrange for additional dog bins to be provided and emptied regularly: however, we do not have the resources to check and inform the council whenever a bin is full can inform the council direct.

We can also support campaigns. An example of what we have achieved through a sustained campaign is the ongoing improvement to Theale's railway station access.



We are now concerned about the volume and type of new housing development in Theale and its impact on the school, medical facilities, and the drainage problems we already face. If there is an issue that is raised by a sufficient number of people then we can support it through publicity, meetings, leaflets and applying for funding to get something done - especially if those raising the issue come to the steering group meetings and offer to help.

The few of us who regularly attend steering group meetings (in the Bull, at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month) can only do a few things, but with more help from interested people, more can be achieved - maybe some of the other suggestions listed above!

If you have a 'bee in your bonnet', a desire to make something happen or a wish to know or influence what is happening in Theale, just come along to one of our meetings - the next is on Tuesday 16th September at the Bull at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

## WW1 EVENT

As publicised in our last newsletter, on Saturday 13th September 2014 Theale Parish Council will be holding a 1914-18 Village Fete & Exhibition on the Recreation Ground in Englefield Road as part of its commemoration of the Centenary of World War I.

The Fete will give visitors a taste of village social life during this period with attractions from 100 years ago such as Bowling for a Pig, Punch & Judy show, a traditional Beer Tent as well as a Temperance Tent, an Exhibition Cricket Match, Morris Dancing and much more. Refreshments will be available in the old fashioned Tea Room and Beenham Wind Orchestra will be playing music of the era whilst history re-enactors in uniform will mingle and chat with the crowd about the period.

Location : Recreation Ground, Englefield Road, Theale from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Station Upgrade

Work is proceeding slowly but, to date, we have no information on when it will be completed nor what is proposed for the shop outlet. We hope to have a representative from FGW at our next meeting at the Bull on 16th September at 7.30 pm.

## IKEA

The company has announced that they intend to reduce the height of the proposed store from three storeys to two. This means they must submit a revised planning application to WBC for approval and until this is accepted, no further development will take place.

### JetBlack 1 Bus Service

The boundary of the *SimplyReading* flat fare zone was, until 1<sup>st</sup> September, at the Wigmore Lane bus stop. Now the boundary has been moved to the bus stop at The Crown. Passengers travelling from Wigmore Lane and the stops in between there and The Crown will now have to pay an increased single fare of £3-00 to get into Reading. Councillor Alan Macro has an online petition at <http://campaigns.libdems.org.uk/reverse-fare-boundary> for those who wish to protest.

### Planning Applications

Theale Motors has entered a planning application for ten one bedroom apartments to be built on their site on the corner of Station Road/Church Street.

The Red Lion has been sold and a planning application has been submitted to create one house and eight apartments on the site.

### What's On

WW1 Centenary Fete, Recreation Ground, Theale, 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday 13th September 2014.

World War I Commemorative Concert in Holy Trinity Church with the Phoenix Choir at 7.30 pm on Saturday 20th September 2014.

The Royal Berkshire County Show, Newbury Showground, Hermitage from 08.00 to 18.00 on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

### How to Contact Us

If you would like to contact Theale's Future regarding any of the articles in this newsletter, or be involved with the group, we would love to hear from you:

Email: [tf@thealevillage.com](mailto:tf@thealevillage.com)

Post: Theale's Future, c/o TPC, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS.

NOTE: These newsletters are available online at [www.thealevillage.com](http://www.thealevillage.com) or from this website sign up to receive our newsletters regularly by email.

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