A simple guide to help residents respond to the WNC Local Plan

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is consulting on its Regulation 19 Local Plan, which will help decide how our villages develop in the future.

At this stage, residents are being asked to comment on whether the Plan is **legally compliant and sound**. This means explaining why they believe a particular decision has not been properly justified, is not supported by the evidence or does not meet national planning policy.

Simply saying you disagree with the proposals is not enough. You need to explain **why you believe the Plan is wrong and what you would like changed**.

What can Boddington residents' comment on?

The attached template letter explains several concerns about the proposed classifications of Upper and Lower Boddington, including:

1. **Different treatment of villages:** Why is poor public transport a reason to downgrade some villages, while Upper Boddington remains a Secondary Service Village despite having no bus service?

2. **Upper Boddington's classification:** Does Upper Boddington meet WNC's own requirements for a Secondary Service Village, particularly when it has no public transport?

3. **The primary school:** WNC says additional housing could help support Boddington Primary School. But do its own figures demonstrate that the proposed housing would make a meaningful difference to the school's future?

4. **Poor access to services:** Has WNC properly considered the village's lack of public transport, shops, healthcare and local employment opportunities?

5. **Separating Upper and Lower Boddington:** WNC has separated the villages because they are more than 400 metres apart. Has it properly considered their shared facilities, historical relationship and the fact that they form one parish?

6. **The Post Office:** Is it reasonable to award Upper Boddington the full 10 points for a Post Office that opens for only four hours a week, particularly when those points significantly affect its overall score?

These are suggested points to consider, not automatic proof that the Plan is unsound. Residents may also raise other concerns, provided they explain how these relate to the legal requirements or tests of soundness.

How to respond

The template letter includes references to WNC's own documents and explains why each issue could make the Plan unsound so residents do not need to research all the evidence themselves.

You do not have to use every point in the template, just choose those you feel are most relevant, or raise your own concerns.

When submitting your response, please remember to:

- **Identify the relevant policy** of the Local Plan and explain which test of soundness you believe has not been met. The template provides this information.
- **Explain why you disagree**, using the evidence provided and any relevant personal experiences.
- **Say what you would like WNC to change**, such as reconsidering the village classifications.
- **Use your own words wherever possible.** Personal examples can help explain how the proposals would affect village life.

Please remember that representations will be publicly available and will form part of the material considered through the Local Plan examination process.

The consultation closes at 11.59 pm on Monday 16 November 2026.

Further information and consultation documents can be found at:

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/local-plan