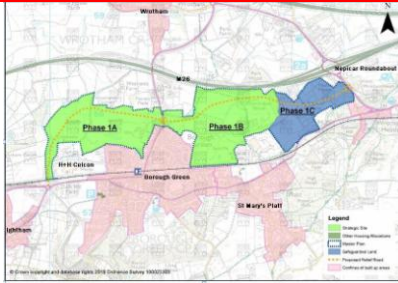


BOROUGH GREEN

PARISH OR TOWN?



BOROUGH GREEN GARDEN CITY IS STILL THERE

It is still a site in the Local Plan for several thousand houses. We are of the opinion that it will not come forward because of multiple constraints. But the Government has just changed Green Belt Rules. The Planning Authority can call some Greenbelt land "Grey Belt" if it is deemed to be "failing the purposes of Greenbelt", or if it is deemed to be "Previously Developed Land" like Sandpits and Landfill Sites.

But there is one far more important change to Greenbelt Rules, the removal of the policy that allowed "Green Wedges" that prevented "Coalescence of Settlements", villages merging into one another. Wedges locally were Darkhill Farm in Ightham, the Croudace & Cooper Fields south west of the Rec, and the Horsefield on Wrotham Rd.

But Towns still benefit from that protection against merging and encroaching on Greenbelt.

Solihull Council in the Midlands is changing four vulnerable Parishes to towns to give them that protection, and we would like to implement it for Borough Green. The irony is that we have been resisting being called a Town or a Rural Service Centre for many years because it made us more vulnerable to development. Now the opposite is true, so we have changed our minds.

Becoming a Town would have no extra cost, it would not change our Precept (Council Tax) and it would have no affect on our status, rules or Governance. It is a very simple process, we do not even need to consult, just a Formal Vote at a Parish Council meeting and we are a town.

We are considering agreeing to progress the scheme with a discussion at our 6th October meeting, with a consultation running until 22nd December, with a Formal Vote will be tabled for the January 2026 meeting that could make us a Town Council on the 1st April 2026 to align with our financial year and governance rules.

But we do intend to consult and that is the purpose of this leaflet, and the online versions and Survey Link that will be at www.boroughgreen.gov.uk and our Facebook Page. You can either tick the appropriate box below and pop the leaflet into Shakti or Nisa Stores, or give it to any Parish Councillor. Or you can use the digital version and email to clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk , or complete the online survey

	RESPONSE
I SUPPORT Borough Green changing to Borough Green Town Council	
I OBJECT to Borough Green changing to Borough Green Town Council	
I HAVE NO OPINION about Borough Green changing to Borough Green Town Council	
COMMENTS	