

## ***BBPlan Newsletter September 2016***

### ***This is a progress report for the Baldock and Bygrave Planning Group***

Over the past year, a group of volunteers have been working to establish a body which can take responsibility for developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the local area.

We are steadily increasing in number as word gets round to Baldock and Bygrave residents about the purpose of the group, i.e. to create a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan, when completed and ratified, will have as much weight as NHDC's Local Plan which means that planners and developers must consider the policies we set out about how we want the community to develop.

The first main task is to register the group with the council. This will not only release funding for publicity, functions, professional advice etc. but it will also provide us with a statutory voice. The committee is talking with NHDC and neighbouring parishes to agree the area that the plan will cover and what the exact legal construct should be for the group. Out of date parish boundaries and the lack of a parish council for Baldock is complicating this process but we are almost there!

Once the process of registration is complete we will begin canvassing local opinion about what future development should look like and what is important to the residents and businesses of the area. This may be preservation of existing qualities, enhancement of special characteristics and new ideas about how to enable the area to thrive as it grows. All residents and businesses of the area will be invited to give their opinion.

There is also some more technical work to be done, investigating existing planning data, familiarization with planning regulations and liaising with local organisations and professional bodies.

At the moment this planning group is being managed by a small group of volunteers. We have listed their names and roles below. In October we will be holding elections to give the planning group committee a stronger mandate from its members and to reallocate official positions if desirable. If you agree to support the planning group, we will be able to include you in these elections.

**To register to join the group, please email your name and address to [info@bbplan.co.uk](mailto:info@bbplan.co.uk)**

We also need to expand the membership into parts of the community that we may not have reached yet, in particular youth groups and businesses. If you have links to any of these, please spread the word, or pass on details to a committee member.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, which currently meets once a month, please get in touch.

Andrew Holford , Chair,  
Baldock and Bygrave Planning Group

***Planning Group Committee members and roles***

Rev'd Andrew Holford	Chair
Michael Bingham	Technical Consultant
Rob Hemmings	Treasurer
Philip Hills	Bygrave Parish Council Chair
Stephen Proops	Technical Communication Manager
Albert Sillwood	Secretary
Adrienne Waterfield	Project Manager
Christine Watson	Community Coordinator