

BBPlan Public Meeting March 15th 2018

Are there other things that you think the neighbourhood plan should consider?

Having looked through the written answers to:

Q7 Are there other things that you think the neighbourhood plan should consider?

I can report the following.

The overarching concern was that the lives and lifestyles of existing residents should not be detrimentally affected in order to accommodate more housing. Nor should the new areas have the effect of making old Baldock feel shabby and overrun. Several people expressed concern that efforts should be made to integrate the new and old parts of Baldock and this might be done by invigorating old Baldock perhaps by incorporating some new features within the existing town which all might enjoy.

The concern raised most was roads and traffic including air pollution (132). After that was healthcare provision (81).

More infrastructure concerns followed - schools (65), trains and the railway (37), and buses (18).

Parking was quite a concern (42) both from point of view of provision with the new homes and also in the town.

There were worries about services, such as water provision sewerage and flooding (30).

Preferred housing types were mentioned (37) with most people suggesting large properties were not required but that small affordable and council properties and properties to rent should be provided with local people in mind.

The need for more and better shops both in the new estates and in the existing high street was brought up (51) as was the need for more jobs /industry to be provided for the town (60).

The lack of banks was raised (16) and one respondent hoped that better radio and tv reception might be provided.

Apart from infrastructure comments the next most common points concerned green spaces (27) and environment/ ecology (63). These referred to both welfare of the residents and the protection of wildlife.

Then followed "special identity" (43). This referred to preservation of the identity of Baldock as an ancient town, a historic market town, and a relaxed rural environment. There is a profound desire to maintain the character of the town.

Several people wanted the character of Bygrave as a village to be protected by better separation from the BA1 site than currently appears on the Local Plan.

Provision of recreational facilities for all ages was brought up under the headings of community centre/libraries (22), youth entertainment (27) and what I loosely termed “adult entertainment” (15) which included things like cinema, swimming pool and restaurants though you will have seen that around (40) requested a swimming pool in question 4. Several (15) were concerned about provision for the elderly, mainly in terms of leisure activities, and several mentioned access needs for the disabled with reference to the roads, station and public facilities.

Good footpaths were requested by (24) and good safe cycleways by (18). These were mainly in relation to connectivity of the town both internally and with other towns though they, and safe bridleways, were also noted in the section to do with environment and leisure.

SO I think there are SIX “problems” we need to consider and find appropriate solutions for:

New features in Baldock to bring people in

Green spaces/ environment/ ecology

Leisure facilities for all

Eco friendly transport – cycle tracks/ footpaths/ bridleways

How to preserve the special identity of Baldock and Bygrave (and to create one for the new estate BA1?)

Integration of new and old Baldock