



## **Baldock, Bygrave & Clothall Neighbourhood Planning meeting - June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The Rev Andrew Holford, Chairman of the Baldock, Bygrave & Clothall Planning Group (BBPlan) steering committee, opened the public meeting at St Mary's Church Hall, Baldock on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Michael Bingham then ran through the reasons for forming the group and explained how a Neighbourhood Plan can benefit Baldock. The BBPlan committee applied for formal designation of the neighbourhood planning area by NHDC in February and this application is now open for comments until 7<sup>th</sup> July.

The committee will write the plan, aligning with the Local Plan timetable and basing the content on analysis of existing documentation and research into the views and ideas of the public as well as input from the parish councils of Bygrave and Clothall. The process is then for this plan to be subjected to technical examination and endorsement through a referendum organised by NHDC before being formalised and used alongside the NHDC's Local Plan.

Another committee member, Christine Watson, gave a report on the findings obtained at the BBPlan Market Stall at the Baldock Festival Street fair in May. Passers-by were invited to register comments about the town or give constructive ideas about what the Neighbourhood Plan might include. Many comments praised the good community spirit of the town and the easy access to the countryside. Concerns mainly centred on provision of infrastructure in the Local Plan. Other ideas for the neighbourhood plan were varied and included the need to provide more facilities for children and teenagers and good quality energy efficient houses at affordable prices.

Opinions were also sought as to the next steps the group should take to obtain a wide view of topics for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was decided that members of the group would champion the planning group in local organisations and interest groups to gain wider support. This will help in carrying out research. Information about the group's activities and future projects can be found on their website at [www.BBPlan.co.uk](http://www.BBPlan.co.uk) and those registered with the group will receive update emails. To register email [info@bbplan.co.uk](mailto:info@bbplan.co.uk) .