

BBPlan Newsletter March 2017

Dear Members

It has been a while since our last newsletter, so we thought it was time to let you know what we have been doing and what the next steps are in the production of The Neighbourhood Plan.

You probably remember that this plan will sit alongside the Local Plan, whatever that may contain, and it must be taken into consideration by developers and planners when new developments are put forward. As such it will provide a voice for local people, both residents and businesses, to air their wishes about the design of new development, local amenities and the character of the town and surrounding villages.

We have made a formal application to NHDC to register the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes the Parishes of Bygrave and Clothall as well as Baldock town. The name of the group has been changed to reflect the recent inclusion of Clothall and is now "Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall Planning Group".

The website for the group is www.bbplan.co.uk . There you can find details of the constitution of the group, the committee members and a map of the Planning Area. We will be adding more to this site as we gather information from everyone in the community, and liaise with local businesses, organisations, landowners and councils.

The Neighbourhood Plan will not be completed until after the Local Plan has been passed by the inspector. This is to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan targets appropriate issues and contains policies that are workable alongside the final version of the Local Plan. In the meantime we need to be constructing a list of objectives for the future development of the area and supporting them with coherent evidence of how they can be achieved.

So, we are looking forward to a busy summer.

Firstly we will have a stall at the Baldock Festival Street Fair on Saturday May 13th. Committee members will be on hand to explain what the plan is all about and to gather views and opinions from anyone and everyone who wants to take part. We really want to hear about your aspirations for the area so that we can focus our attention on features that matter to local residents and businesses. If any member would like to help on the stall, please get in touch with Christine (chrisatina@hotmail.com) or you can email info@bbplan.co.uk .

We will collate all these ideas in time to share and discuss them with you on Thursday June 8th at St. Mary's Church Hall (7.00 for 7.30 start). Again if you could help either with collation or the meeting contact Christine or bbplan. This will be a fun, interactive, public meeting and we hope that as many people as possible can make time to come along. The more the merrier.

We will be holding several more open meetings as the work progresses to ensure you are all involved and to get the public's response to our emerging plans. These will be held as and when they are needed but not necessarily every month and they will be publicised widely.

Please spread the word about the group to friends and neighbours and encourage them to take part on May 13th.

Whatever your views of the Local Plan itself, Baldock and its surroundings will change and this is an opportunity to help to shape our community for the future.

Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall Planning Group Committee