

BBPlan Newsletter – Jan 18 Questionnaire



We would like to wish all members of the Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall Planning Group a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We would also like to update you on what we have been doing over the last couple of months and tell you about an important activity, which is happening in January...

As you know, the neighbourhood plan can be used to set out planning policies which local residents want to be taken into consideration when local planning applications are made. Once ratified the plan has equal weighting to the district council's Local Plan. It cannot contradict what the Local Plan stipulates but it can state additional policies and set out a more detailed vision for the area.

The Local Plan is currently being examined by a planning inspector. Members of the public can go along to the examination sessions: the details are on NHDC website. Timetabling for the examination has been extended into March to enable all the evidence and representations to be heard.

Until the process is complete it will not be known how much of the district council's Local Plan will be accepted. The Inspector is likely to publish his conclusions during the middle of 2018.

Through careful assessment of the Proposed Local Plan and its underlying evidence base, we have identified areas which have been missed or not fully addressed. These are the aspects which the neighbourhood plan could focus on but we need to know what local residents' views are on some of these issues and to fill gaps in the information that we have available.

For this reason, we are asking every resident of Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall to complete a questionnaire.

The questionnaire will be published in the January edition of On Our Doorstep. Please look out for it and encourage all your neighbours to complete it. You can pull-out the questionnaire and drop your completed copy into the collection boxes (location details will be on the questionnaire) but it would be most helpful to us if you completed it online through our website, www.bbplan.co.uk. The questionnaire will be available from the first week of January.

The questionnaire targets the subjects we think we can influence. Consequently, there are some important local issues which we do not cover as they can only be addressed through the Local Plan itself, or through other bodies like the County Council's highways powers. Once the completed questionnaires have been assessed, we will share the results with Group members.

As the final version of the Local Plan becomes clearer, we will use the questionnaire results as the basis for creating the neighbourhood plan to stand alongside it.

Thank you for your support

The Baldock Bygrave and Clothall Planning Group committee