

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSION GROUPS MAR15th

The areas discussed were:

1. Preserving the special identity of Baldock and Bygrave
2. Integration of new and old Baldock
3. New features for 'old' Baldock to encourage integration
4. Leisure facilities for all
5. Open spaces/ ecology/ environment
6. Cycle tracks/ footpath/ bridleways

Points raised overlapped between topics.

- Community Centres needed early on during building phase to act as a centre for coordination and information.
- Architecture sympathetic to that of 'old' Baldock.
- New groups (Guiding etc.) to be set up early, may attract some people from 'old' town. Youth Club.
- Teaching/ sharing Baldock's history – naming streets/ parks etc after the area's historic events. History Trail?
- Retain or copy the Medieval street layout in some areas (shopping or leisure areas?) – gateways/ courtyards – in the new development.
- Information boards to explain the history of the local area.
- Use Garden City Guidelines?
- Excavated feature to demonstrate local history of the area?

- Importance of timing and integration of developments.
- Public competitions – consult locals on house design (similar to Wilbury Rd, Letchworth? Garden City Cottages competition?).
- Competition to design a sculpture for a public position or even the whole square.
- Integration was felt to be difficult due to distances, parking etc.
- Integration by town events and social media, leafleting etc.
- Encourage a New Residents Committee to hold new events
- A Town Council to cover the whole area.
- Encourage integration through children, children's events.

- More support for Town Hall to hold more community events.
 - A small cinema in the Town Hall.
 - A new events venue with flexible use and good capacity.
 - Leisure facilities for sports and other events.
 - Swimming pool indoor/ outdoor.
 - Better shopping opportunities in 'old' Baldock.
 - It was pointed out that space for extra buildings will be at a premium
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- Open air swimming pool linked to outdoor leisure park and skate boarding park, tennis and badminton courts, cricket pitch.
 - No-car zones, aid social and family interaction.
 - Public toilets with wheelchair access/ disabled facilities.
 - Outdoor exercise equipment – fitness trail, walking trail.
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- Community gardens, meeting places, areas to walk and cycle.
 - Wildlife area, children's farm, maybe near nursery, lake.
 - Hedgehog Highway throughout development.
 - No bypass or large HGVs through development.
 - Proper green space between BA1 development and Bygrave.
 - Preserve hedges/ trees and plant new ones.
 - New nature reserve (+pond) to protect rare and endangered species.
 - Permeable driveways etc to allow rain to drain through. Protect Ivel.
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- Linked up footpaths and cycle tracks leading to points of interest in town and also to Letchworth and other places. May need tunnels under roads for bikes/ walkers.
 - Link up to Greenway.
 - Safe areas for children to cycle and scoot etc.
 - Secure lock-ups for electric bikes at station and in town to encourage them and to reduce the need for more car parking.
 - Secure bike sheds between roads on new estates for communal use.