

# WELCOME

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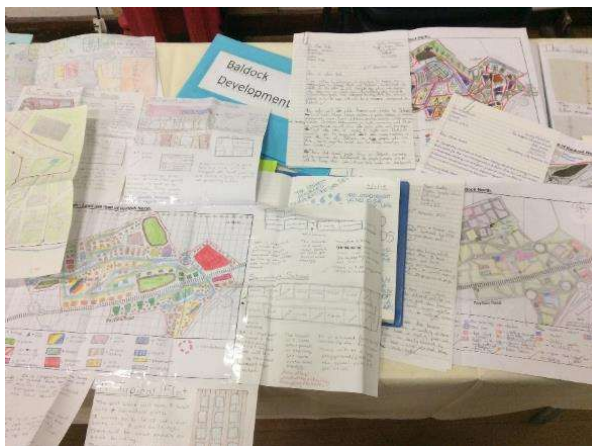
Welcome to this exhibition about the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall. This is a community-led initiative to secure a better future for the area.

Baldock is going to grow over the next 20 years due to separate plans being finalised by the district and county councils. We can't block that growth, but we can improve what happens.

**The Neighbourhood Plan is our chance to influence the things that matter to the local community.** This exhibition tells you more about the plan and how you can contribute.



The plan has been produced by volunteers from local community organisations and the parish councils for Bygrave and Clothall. The group is non-political and dedicated to one objective: securing the best possible future for our town and villages.



We are grateful for the many views we have received through our previous events and discussions. We have taken these into account in producing the draft plan. We would now like as many views as possible on the plan before we move to the next stage.

Thank you for visiting. Members of the group are on hand to answer any questions that you have.

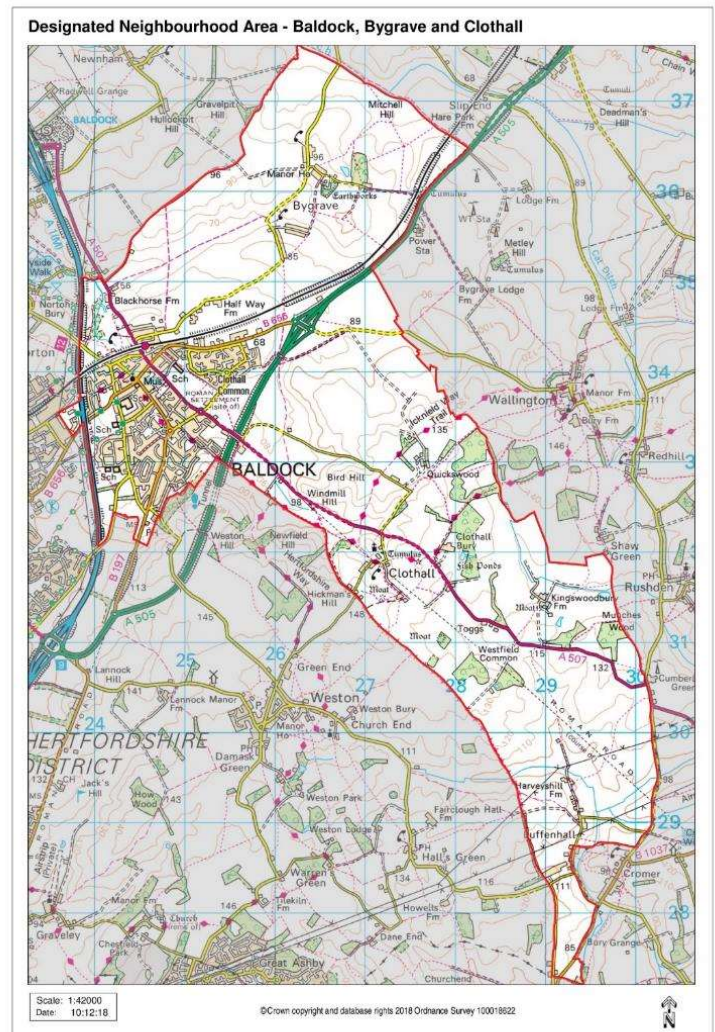


# OBJECTIVES

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Based on what we have heard, we have identified a number of objectives that the Neighbourhood Plan can help to deliver:

1. Sustain and strengthen Baldock's character as a historic and vibrant market town, and the rural character and separate identities of Bygrave, Clothall and Luffenhall.
2. Ensure that new development is well designed, maintains and reflects important features of Baldock and its surroundings, and is resilient to future climate change.
3. Secure the right infrastructure and facilities needed to serve the expanded town, and to avoid unacceptable impacts from new development.
4. Ensure that Baldock grows in a way that builds strong connections between all parts of the town, and which provides homes, services and job opportunities that cater for both existing and new residents.



*The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan*

The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal directly with every aspect of these objectives, as it will supplement policies already contained in the North Hertfordshire Local Plan. For example, we are not proposing policies for the mix of homes, as suitable policies are in the Local Plan. Instead, **we have concentrated on those areas where the Local Plan is lacking, and we can make the most difference.**





# BETTER FACILITIES

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The most common issue raised with us is the importance of local services and infrastructure. We need to avoid these coming under further pressure, and take this opportunity to secure better facilities for Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall.

The Local Plan already requires a range of new facilities to be provided if Baldock is to grow. These will need to be paid for by the developer (Hertfordshire County Council):



Extra surgery



New primary schools



A new secondary school



Local shopping centre



Multi-purpose community hall



New link roads

But the Local Plan doesn't cover all the things that Baldock will need, so the Neighbourhood Plan sets out additional facilities that are required:



Indoor sports facilities



Outdoor sports facilities



Open space



Space for scouts/guides & after-school clubs



New bus services



Station improvements (including parking)



The Neighbourhood Plan also contains requirements to manage the environmental impacts of development. This includes new walking and cycling routes, better air quality monitoring and measures to minimise the effects of construction activity.



# OPEN SPACE

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As Baldock grows, we will need to protect and improve existing open spaces, and provide new ones. The Neighbourhood Plan requires a range of green areas as a condition of development. These are needed for sport, informal recreation, children's play and nature. It also proposes improvements to two key areas:



Walls Field, between Hartsfield School and Tapps Garden Centre, is at the heart of what was once Roman Baldock. The Neighbourhood Plan protects this area, and proposes improvements as part of a wider 'green corridor' offering new recreation opportunities.



North Hertfordshire's Local Plan fails to give clear protection to this much-used area of open space next to Clothall Common. The Neighbourhood Plan will correct this, by requiring that no building takes place beyond areas that have already been confirmed for development.

The right connections with the surrounding countryside are also important. The Neighbourhood Plan will require a suitable 'green edge' to new development. It also aims to maintain long-distance views from within and towards Baldock, and supports new links to the existing network of footpaths and bridleways.



# GOOD DESIGN

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Baldock is an attractive town, and we think it should stay that way. Many people, especially younger age groups, have also said how important it is that new development is sustainable, by limiting resource use and being resilient to climate change.



*Examples of on-plot parking arrangements*

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With help from consultants AECOM, draft Design Guidelines for new development have been produced. They are part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The guidelines show how developments can respect local character and address issues like car parking.



*Examples of well-designed waste storage*

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The Neighbourhood Plan supports designs that are energy efficient, resilient to rising temperatures and make efficient use of resources. The Design Guidelines show how a range of 'green' features can be used. For example cycle parking, rainwater harvesting, permeable paving and waste storage.

Copies of the draft Design Guidelines are available to view at this exhibition, at Baldock library and on our web site.

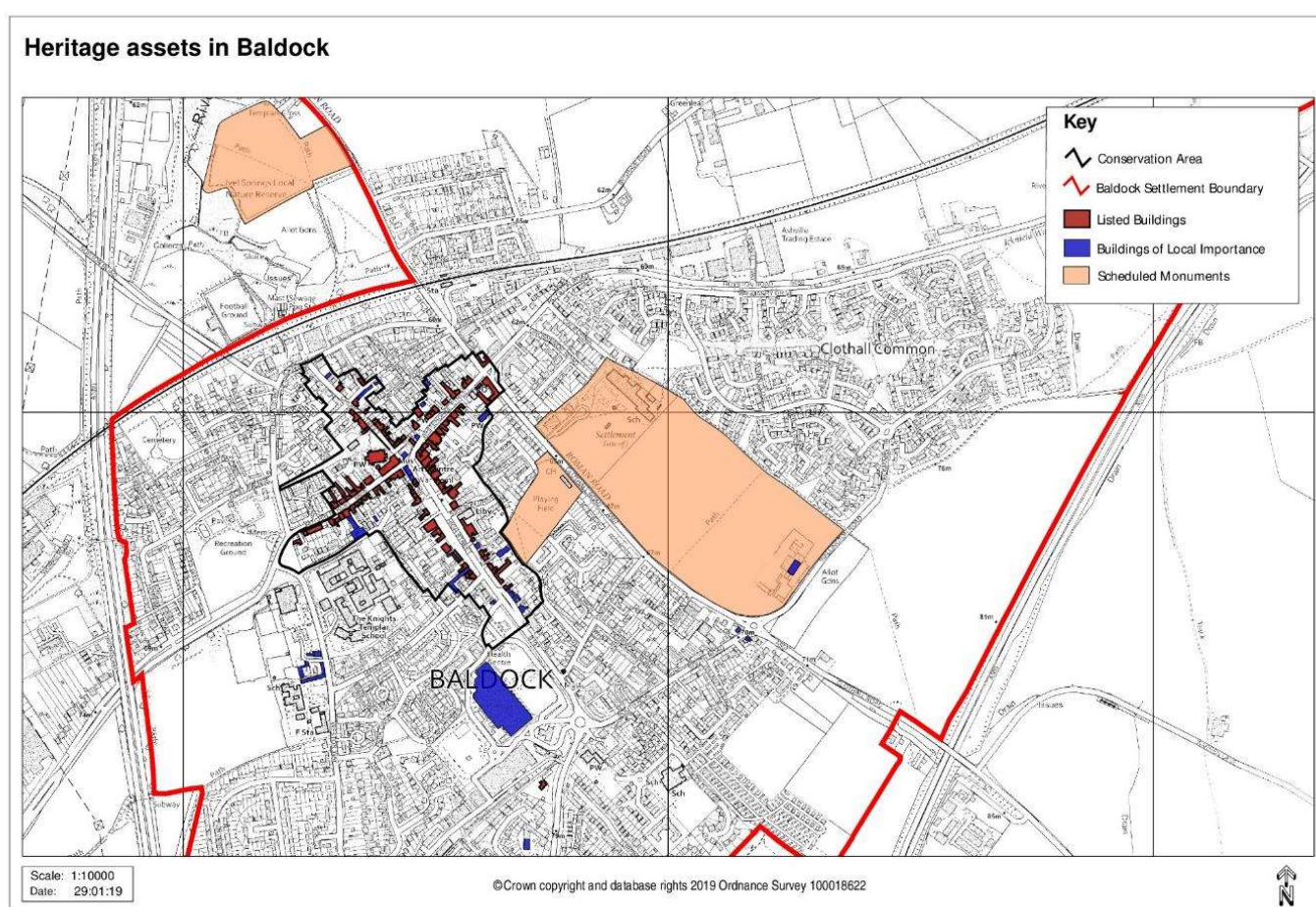




# CONSERVATION

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Baldock's long history is reflected in its many fine buildings, which are a vital part of the town's character. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies to ensure development respects the town centre conservation area and other important buildings and features.





# VILLAGE CHARACTER

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The villages of Bygrave, Clothall and Luffenhall are important parts of the area, with their own distinctive identities. The Neighbourhood Plan contains specific policies to safeguard their character.

A key issue for Bygrave is minimising the impact of development that may take place on the northern edge of Baldock. The Neighbourhood Plan requires a clear gap to be kept between Bygrave and Baldock, with additional planting and measures to limit the scope for increased traffic through the village.



The Neighbourhood Plan restricts development in each village, and requires any building that does occur to respect their appearance and rural nature.



# WHAT NEXT?

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We welcome any comments that you have on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, including the Design Guidelines. Full copies and summary leaflets are available on our web site [www.bbplan.co.uk](http://www.bbplan.co.uk), at this exhibition and in Baldock library.

The consultation is open for six weeks from 7 May until 18 June.

**You can submit comments online at [www.bbplan.co.uk](http://www.bbplan.co.uk)**

Alternatively fill in and return one of the survey forms available here or from one of our collection points (to which completed forms can also be returned):

- Baldock Community Centre
- Bygrave Church
- Clothall Church

**Please remember to let us have your views by 18 June!**

Once the consultation closes we will look at all comments and see whether changes are needed to the Neighbourhood Plan.

It will then be sent to North Hertfordshire District Council, who will organise an independent examination of the plan.

The final version of the plan – including any changes from this process – will then be put to a public referendum. **We will need your support to get the plan in place!**

We would like to thank everyone who has helped so far, including those who have provided or offered financial support: Rotary Club of Baldock, Baldock Society, Cllrs Steve Jarvis and Michael Muir (through their locality budgets) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (which funded AECOM's design work).

