

BBPlan Newsletter 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Member

We have some good news to share with you. The NHDC's cabinet has voted to accept the Neighbourhood Plan for Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall.

This means that the plan now carries some weight when planning applications are made. For now, it is to be considered only as part of the "other material matters".

There is one vital, final stage that the plan needs to get through in order for it to carry the same weight as the Local Plan itself. This is the referendum.

Every local person will be invited to say Yes or No to the neighbourhood plan. If it fails the referendum, then it will no longer carry any weight at all and we will lose all of the safeguards which it puts in place to ensure that any new building is well designed and has the least impact possible on Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall.

The referendum is planned to take place on Thurs 6th May 2021, alongside the local council elections. It will be run by North Herts District Council, so it is important to make sure that you are registered to vote, and also register for a postal ballot if that is what you would prefer. You must register no later than 5pm, 11 working days before the polling day.

The final version of the neighbourhood plan is available on the [BBPlan website](#). It reflects some of the recommendations made by the independent examiner, who reviewed the plan last summer. He endorsed the vast majority of the plan, including the importance of keeping a gap between Baldock and Bygrave, requirements for improved facilities and for well-designed and sustainable development. Some recommendations have not been taken up. NHDC and our committee agreed that they that were inappropriate and so have not been included.

We are starting a local campaign to increase awareness of the plan's purpose and the details that it contains. It is going to be really important that the whole community is armed with the correct information in advance of being presented with the choice on the ballot paper.

Please look out for articles in On Our Doorstep and Social Media. If you are part of any community groups please pass on the details. We will produce posters etc. in the coming weeks too, which may help with spreading to news to everyone who chooses to vote.

Thank you  
The Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall Planning Group Committee

[www.bbplan.co.uk](http://www.bbplan.co.uk)