

# The BARFORD BUGLE



THE MAGAZINE OF  
Great Barford Parish Council

## GREAT BARFORD PLANNING NEWS

### Local Plan 2032

Earlier this year Bedford Borough Council carried out a consultation to seek views on the scope of a new local plan that will look ahead at development needs to 2032. As part of the exercise the Borough Council asked for the details of possible development sites to be submitted. Since the close of the consultation the Borough Council has been logging and recording information from the 350 or so sites that were submitted. 17 sites were submitted for Great Barford.

All sites submitted to the Council are available to view at [www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2032](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2032). Not all will be allocated for development in the Local Plan. Sites will be selected once the development strategy and level of growth have been identified. They have been published so that Members and local communities can see the sites the Borough Council has been asked to consider.

The web site explains that the Borough Council is not consulting on the submitted sites at the present time. There will be a chance for people to comment on the sites that are chosen for inclusion in the plan at a later date. However, a delay to the Local Plan's timetable has provided the Borough Council with an early opportunity to ask for comments on the sites that have been submitted from parish/town councils. Great Barford Parish Council discussed the submitted sites at the Full Council meeting in September. Submitted comments will be published as part of the evidence base for the plan.

## WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

You have probably heard on the news, or seen articles in the press, about the Government giving more power to local people. This has introduced the prospect of a new type of community-led plan. These "Neighbourhood Plans" can be used to add detail and priorities for development at a local community level, while still staying consistent with the more strategic vision for the wider area. The wider picture will be set out by the Local Planning Authority – in our case that would be the Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan.

**Neighbourhood Plans are optional, but can be used to:**

- Develop a shared vision for your neighbourhood.
- Choose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built.
- Identify and protect important local green spaces.
- Influence what new buildings should look like.
- Promote more development than set out in the Local Plan.

So what does all this mean for you and me? Well, your Parish Council is considering preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Great Barford. The team, so far, consists of Di Ames, Noreen Byrne and me Graham Pendrey as Chair, with the Clerk, Anne Papé to help administer things. This task may take around 18 months, and will be required to follow several steps through an established process.

So what happens now? We are just about to start a journey into the future. A journey that will have many twists and turns, with lots of things to discover, and decisions to be made on the best direction to take. Because the destination will affect us all, we must involve everyone from the start. Come and join us on the community bus.

What can you do? And how can you get involved? That's easy, we call for volunteers to join the planning team. Yes, we need to get the community on board, to help navigate the bus that will take us on our journey. Want to help? Get in touch with us via the Parish Clerk – details at the front of the Bugle. Your community needs you. Graham

**More information can be found on-line:**

GOV.UK – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notes-on-neighbourhood-planning>

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

[http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/planning\\_town\\_and\\_country/planning\\_policy\\_its\\_purpose/neighbourhood\\_planning.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_town_and_country/planning_policy_its_purpose/neighbourhood_planning.aspx)

CPRE/NALC – HOW TO SHAPE WHERE YOU LIVE: A GUIDE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/planning/item/download/3038>