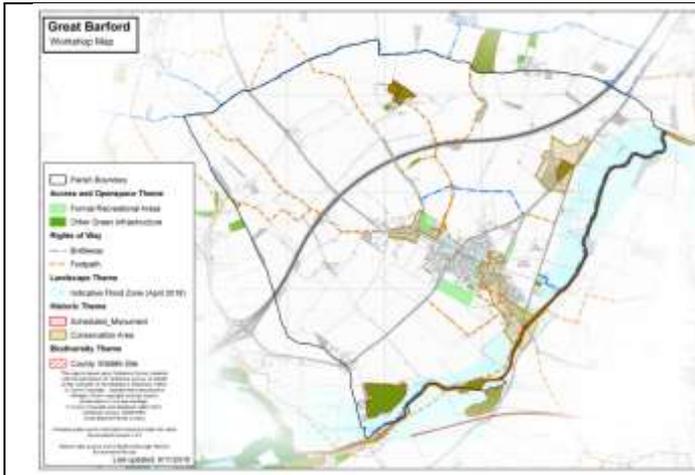


*You are invited to help create the*

# **Great Barford Green Infrastructure Plan**



**'Drop-in'  
Consultation event**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
10.00am – 12noon**

**at  
Great Barford Village  
Hall**

**Green Infrastructure (GI) Plans identify community aspirations for enhancing the public access, wildlife, heritage and landscape of their parish. Successful GI Plans lead to improvements being made to the local area which result in greater provision for recreation, health, fitness and mental wellbeing.**

**GI Plans can be used as standalone documents to inspire change, inform comments on local planning applications and give evidence for funding applications. However, GI plans have even greater value when they are part of a Neighbourhood Plan. The emerging Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan, when completed and adopted, will sit alongside Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan and be used in assessing and determining local planning issues.**

**The GI Plan will be used to inform policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, including the protection of important Local Green Spaces which meet certain designation criteria.**

Working with Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Parish Council, BRCC is assisting in the production of a GI Plan. Initial consultation with identified stakeholders has led to the production of a draft GI Plan, which we now want the whole community to view and comment on. The Drop-in session will be hosted by representatives of BRCC and the Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan group, who invite you to look at and comment on the aspirations identified to date; and to put forward your own ideas for enhancing the local environment of the village. Pop in for just 5 minutes, or longer if you have the time.

*For more information about the GI Drop-in event, please contact Mike Fayers:*

[mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk)

*For more information about the Neighbourhood Plan, please contact: Graham Pendrey*

[graham.pendrey@greatbarford.org.uk](mailto:graham.pendrey@greatbarford.org.uk)

**Further information on Green Infrastructure** is attached.

## **What is Green Infrastructure?**

*Green Infrastructure can be defined as a strategically planned and managed network of accessible greenspaces and access routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage which will meet the needs of existing and new communities in Central Bedfordshire by providing:*

- *an essential environmental foundation and support system;*
- *a healthy and rich environment;*
- *attractive places to live and visit and a good quality of life;*
- *a sustainable future*

*The green infrastructure network will be protected, conserved, enhanced and developed, and widely known and valued. It will be of high quality and an example of best practice and innovation. The network will be multi-functional and meet a wide range of social, environmental and economic needs. It will connect urban and rural settlements and the countryside, and provide a spatial planning framework to guide sustainable development.*

### **Green Infrastructure Assets**

*GI consists of public and private assets, with and without public access, in urban and rural locations, including*

- *Allotments*
- *Amenity space, including communal greenspaces within housing areas*
- *Green corridors, including hedgerows, ditches, disused railways, verges*
- *Brownfield and greenfield sites*
- *Urban parks and gardens*
- *Registered commons and village and town greens*
- *Children's play space*
- *Natural and semi-natural habitat for wildlife*
- *Playing fields*
- *Sports pitches and facilities*
- *Cemeteries*
- *Pocket parks*
- *Country parks*
- *Woodland*
- *Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes*
- *Nature reserves*
- *Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Scheduled Monuments*
- *Locally designated heritage sites, including county wildlife sites*
- *Waterways and waterbodies, including flooded quarries*
- *Development sites with potential for open space and links*
- *Land in agri-environmental management*
- *Public rights of way, cycleways and other recreational routes*

### **Green Infrastructure should**

- Contribute to the management, conservation and improvement of the local landscape
- Contribute to the protection, conservation and management of historic landscape, archaeological and built heritage assets
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity to ensure that development and implementation results in a net gain of habitats
- Be delivered through the enhancement of existing woodlands and also by the creation of new woodlands and forest areas
- Create new recreational facilities, particularly those that present opportunities to link urban and countryside areas
- Take account of and integrate with natural processes and systems
- Be managed and funded in urban areas to accommodate nature, wildlife and historic and cultural assets, and provide for sport and recreation
- Be designed to high standards of quality and sustainability to deliver social and economic, as well as environmental benefits
- Provide focus for social inclusion, community development and lifelong learning

### **Benefits of Green Infrastructure**

- Well-designed and integrated GI can deliver a range of benefits, often in combination:
- Improve health and mental well-being
- Promote a sense of community
- Help reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour
- Provide opportunity for exercise, sport, active recreation, spiritual well-being and quiet contemplation
- Improve health as a result of increased physical activity, such as walking
- Provide community resources for learning and training
- Provide opportunities for community involvement
- Provide a leisure focus and attraction for people of all ages from the existing and the growth communities
- Help establish local identity or sense of place
- Improve environmental quality, e.g. better air and water quality, local climate control and noise attenuation
- Contribute to sustainable drainage and flood mitigation
- Provide the opportunity to protect, recreate and rehabilitate landscapes and habitats damaged or lost by previous development or agricultural change
- Help maintain and enhance biodiversity
- Contribute to the protection, management and enhancement of historic and natural sites and areas
- Improve and sustain land values
- Reduce land management costs
- Provide an enhanced environmental backdrop that will assist in attracting business and inward investment

**Please do come along and give your input to help create a high quality Green Infrastructure Plan for Great Barford.**