

BYGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors Philip Hills James Northern Claire Phipps	Clerk to the Council: Mrs K Clark 73 Brookfield Way Lower Cambourne Cambridgeshire CB23 5EB Tel: 0795 646 5101 E-mail: clerk@bygraveparishcouncil.org.uk Web: www.bygraveparishcouncil.org.uk
--	---

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER PROPOSED EXPANSION UPDATE

To the Residents of Bygrave

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

May 6th brings the County Council Elections including referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan.

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 which The Baldock Bygrave Clothall Planning Group including a representative from Bygrave PC has expended a huge amount of time in preparing.

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.

Below is the article that appears in 'On Your Doorstep' this month giving full details

At the local council elections on 6th May, residents of Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall will also be asked to vote to accept the Neighbourhood Plan for the area.

This is our opportunity to influence the planning of any future developments in the town, and to ensure that any future growth maintains the town's character and brings the facilities we need.

The Neighbourhood plan has been put together, over the last 3 years, by local community groups. Its purpose is to improve upon North Hertfordshire District Council's Local Plan, to get a better outcome for the town and address specific issues that you have told us are important to you. Plans being finalised by the district and county councils for the substantial growth of Baldock over the next twenty years make this particularly important.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies to:

- Prevent local services and infrastructure coming under pressure from any new development, and secure better community facilities for the area (such as improved cycleways and additional places to meet and play sport).
- Require new buildings to be well-designed and to minimise their environmental impact.
- Protect and improve key areas of open space, including Walls Field next to Hartsfield School, and the informal recreation area to the east of Clothall Common.
- Maintain a physical and visual gap between Lower Bygrave and the edge of Baldock.
- Protect the historic character of Baldock and the villages in the area.

On 6th May, all residents will be asked to vote Yes or No to supporting the Neighbourhood Plan. If the majority of voters agree to accept the Neighbourhood Plan then **it will carry the same weight as North Hertfordshire District Council's Local Plan** in making decisions about any future development. If the plan is not accepted by the majority of voters then the opportunity to influence future planning decisions will be lost.

Please take a look at the website, www.bbplan.co.uk, where you will find lots of information about what is in the plan and how we identified the issues that have been included. And, even more importantly, please vote to support the plan when you visit a polling station on 6 May!