



Brickhill Parish Council: Great Barford Ward Councillors' Update July 2017

Local Plan 2035

The Council's latest consultation on its Local Plan, which proposed sites to accommodate 8,000 new homes by 2035, ended on the 9th June. The Council's Planning department is now assessing around 1800 responses received.

The consultation document included an option to develop 1 or more new settlement(s) in the north of the Borough to accommodate around a quarter of this target, with sites in Wyboston, Sharnbrook, Twinwoods (between Milton Ernest and Thurleigh) and Thurleigh Airfield being considered. One or more of these settlements could go forward and are likely to provide around 4,000 – 6,000 dwellings each (although it is thought that only 2,000 could be developed within the Local Plan period to 2035).

Sites earmarked for development in the urban and edge of urban areas have also been earmarked to accommodate just over 2,000 properties, while a number of villages have been designated as having 'Group 1' status, namely: Wilstead; Bromham; Sharnbrook; Clapham, and; Great Barford and are all set to increase substantially in size with between 500 – 600 new properties in each. An allocation of 1,000 homes has been earmarked for the brownfield site at the former Stewartby brick works.

'Group 2' villages across the Borough will see development of between 25 – 50 new homes. Included in Group 2 are: Carlton; Harrold; Milton Ernest; Oakley; Roxton, and; Turvey. Willington is also a Group 2 village but does not have a housing allocation.

The other villages are included in Groups 3 and 4. They do not have specific allocations but these communities may wish to bring forward sites for development through implementing Neighbourhood Plans.

For more information see www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035

Black Cat / A428

Highways England held a consultation between the 6th March – 23rd April 2017 on proposals to improve the Black Cat roundabout and provide a new dual carriageway to Caxton Gibbet.

The consultation document put forward 3 options for consideration for the A428 and 3 options to upgrade the Black Cat roundabout, as set out in the consultation document which can be seen on the Highways England website (search 'Highways England Black Cat'). A decision on the preferred option will be made this summer.

East West Rail

A consultation is being held from the 30th June – 11th August on the proposed East West Rail scheme.

The western section of East West Rail will connect Oxford, Milton Keynes and Bedford. In addition to this, a central section is planned which will extend the line to Cambridge.

Overall, 20 options were considered for the location of the route between Bedford and Cambridge, with the decision being taken for the line to pass through Sandy.

The Government backed the scheme in its 2016 Autumn Statement with £110m investment. A new East West Rail organisation is now taking the plans forward. For more information visit <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/east-west-rail>

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

The body responsible for organising health services in Bedfordshire has announced that it is no longer under 'special measures' after losing control of its finances.

In 2014/15 the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) amassed a £43.2m spending deficit on a budget of around £500m after it failed to deliver a range of efficiencies. This led to NHS England placing 'legal directions' on the BCCG, meaning that it had to agree with NHS England an improvement plan to address its financial position and ineffective corporate governance.

The BCCG subsequently put in place a new Executive which oversaw a surplus financial position for 2016/17. NHS England is now content that the BCCG's position has improved to the extent that it can be given full autonomy once again.

Ward Fund

We have now received notification of my Council Ward Fund for 2017/18 which allows us to make a financial contribution to local schemes benefitting the community.

If you feel you have a scheme you feel could benefit, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Summer Sports Courses

The Council has announced a programme of sports courses for children to enjoy over the summer holidays.

From the 24th July – 1st September children aged 3 – 15 will be able to try their hand at sports such as tennis, cricket and water sports. For more details see www.bedford.gov.uk/summersportscourses

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