



Neighbourhood Development Plan

Positive progress

During the last month the Borough Council has made progress with the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports. We hope that the 6-week publicity period for the Plan will start by mid-April, taking us ever closer to completing the process of Plan making. In the not distant future the parish councils and the community will have a greater voice in the way development happens in our parishes.

It is a legal requirement for the Plan to support growth, including new housing.

Future growth and development will be guided by the Plan policies. The policies reflect input provided by the community during the various events and consultations that have taken place since summer 2015. They set out where development can take place, the types of development that will be permitted, and how the natural environment and the historic and local character of the Neighbourhood Area will be protected and respected.

The policy on new housing has been guided by residents' input and will support growth in sustainable locations, including within Baldwins Gate. The Baldwins Gate village envelope will be extended to include the Kier and Watering Close sites. Sustainable locations in the smaller settlements are defined as small infills, including within built frontages of existing dwellings. Replacements of existing dwellings and conversions (e.g. of existing dwellings, or of historic agricultural buildings) are also included. New housing should be supported by adequate infrastructure and not encroach into the open countryside or impact on sensitive landscapes or habitats.

Policies on design will ensure that new development respects the character of the existing settlements. They will also promote connectivity within settlements and between existing and new developments, and aim to minimise the impact of light pollution on the area's rural character and natural environment.

A Design Statement for Baldwins Gate sets out 24 principles to guide the design of development within the village. These deal with (1) the form of the settlement and its relationship to the countryside, (2) protection of community facilities and provision of parking, (3) connectivity within the village and enhancement of the street and footpath network, and (4) architectural detail, including respect for the village roofline and the character of surrounding buildings.

In the next issue of One Way we will take a look at some of the other policies of the Plan.

It's your neighbourhood – please support the Neighbourhood Plan!

Please turn out to vote in the Local Referendum – apply for a postal vote if you will be away on holiday or business!!!

Visit the website: www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Email us: cmaw-neighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com