



OUR PARISH – OUR PLAN – OUR FUTURE

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

- Neighbourhood Planning was introduced in the Localism Act of 2011 which came into effect in April 2012.
- Bletsoe Parish Council applied for the designation of the whole of the Bletsoe Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area and Bedford Borough Council endorsed the proposal in a decision statement dated 1 July 2013.
- A "Launch Event" to promote local awareness about the Neighbourhood Plan was held on 25 September 2014 at Bletsoe Village Hall and was well attended.
- A Steering Group was formed to carry out the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Bletsoe Parish and to gather community views and essential evidence.
- The comments made in the first stages of consultation helped to identify key issues and options to address them, including locations for small scale future growth to meet local need. This feedback has, therefore, enabled policies to be determined and the Neighbourhood Plan to be drafted.
- This consultation seeks to ensure that the Plan has been drafted in line with the views and requirements of the community.
- This Neighbourhood Plan will be amended, where necessary, following this consultation and then submitted to Bedford Borough Council for the required Regulation 16 consultation and independent examination.
- The Plan, if successful at examination, will then proceed to a local referendum organised by Bedford Borough Council to ensure that it enjoys local support.
- It will be brought into legal force by the Local Planning Authority if it supported by more than 50% of those voting in the referendum. It will then become part of the statutory development plan and thus help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.