



## OUR PARISH – OUR PLAN – OUR FUTURE

# HOUSING PROVISION

- A Housing Needs Survey has identified that the provision of up to 10 new homes would meet a reasonable proportion of local need while being in keeping with the size of the village. The survey has identified a particular need for smaller market housing (2-3 bedrooms) if Bletsoe is to meet the identified current and future needs of its existing residents wishing to stay in the village, as well as prior residents wishing to return.
- Feedback from the consultation undertaken and the evidence gathered indicates that the emphasis should be towards:
  - ✓ resisting major growth due to the impact on local infrastructure.
  - ✓ restricting development to that required to meet local need and to maintain the viability of the local community, respecting the character of the village.
  - ✓ protecting and enhancing open spaces, and improving the village gateway.
- There were eleven potential development sites in Bletsoe that were submitted to Bedford Borough Council for consideration but many of these were not considered acceptable for allocation. In terms of locations for growth (and in the context of limited growth), community feedback indicated that the preferred sites, identified in the Proposals Map at Appendix A in the draft Neighbourhood Plan - see next board), and scale of development to meet housing needs would be as follows:
  - (1) Land behind Captains Close, via existing access adjacent to garages (site identified for up to 8 dwellings to meet local need);
  - (2) The First Field, The Avenue (3 dwellings with associated "gateway" improvements);
  - (3) Land North of the Old Rectory (3 dwellings, subject to achieving a layout and design satisfactorily integrated into the village landscape setting).
- Specific policies relating to these locations have been prepared to reflect the individual circumstances of these preferred sites.