

## **Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan**

Bi-monthly Progress Note to Abbots Langley Parish Council – **Report Six – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

The **Neighbourhood Planning Group met** on 26<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Work is continuing on:

- Phase 4 'Public Engagement and Consultation'
- Phase 5 'Building the Evidence Base'

**Leaflets introducing the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan** to residents have been distributed to all households (6633 households) within the Parish boundary. The leaflet encourages the public to respond with suggestions for the Neighbourhood Plan - via the post, Facebook and our Commonplace interactive web site. To date we have received **164 comments on our Commonplace site**. The team has analysed all these comments - grouping them under ten core topics. Forty per cent of comments relate to Transport Issues. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has to focus on the 'Use of Land' so cannot address many of these transport issues directly.

The '**Public Comments**' will form the basis of the issues addressed in our first Draft Plan. We also have the on-going 12 studies 'Building the Evidence Base,' that have been mentioned in previous Progress Reports.

**Alison Eardley, a Neighbourhood Planning Consultant** was commissioned in February 2017 to assist the team with its work. Her first task was to prepare a Healthcheck Report reviewing the work completed by the NP team since March 2016. This report was received on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Councillor Liz Burns and Peter Warman met with Alison prior to her participation in the Parish Council AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Her Report includes seven main recommendations which, if accepted in full, would result in 21 identified new tasks to be implemented by the Neighbourhood Planning Team.

The full implications of this report are being considered along with an associated work programme for the next 12 months. The team will need to review the resources required to do this work.

Another task in Alison's first phase of work is to apply for **Government Grant funding** (up to £9000) This can cover Alison's costs, if successful. Some of the extra tasks that may require funding include:

1. Extending the involvement of Commonplace for a further year
2. Networking Events to involve Local Businesses.
3. Design, conduct and analysis of relevant resident surveys
4. Analysis of Land Ownership and possible survey amongst major land owners in the parish
5. Exhibition Material for local events and Parish activities to engage the public and present our findings and proposals in an eye-catching way.
6. Means for the preparation and publication of our analysis and plan to ensure the public understand the basis of our proposals.
7. Professional help in translating the issues and opportunities (identified as relevant to our Parish) into acceptable Planning Policies and Requirements for the Neighbourhood Plan.

During February and March, we are **identifying all the key plots of land across the Parish** using the Land Insight software. This includes ownership of the land and the plot's history of planning applications. We intend to identify all undeveloped plots of land in the parish that should be protected for their current uses and other undeveloped/developed plots that have potential for 'Change of Use' in line with the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A **Public Exhibition of the Main Themes** of the Neighbourhood Plan was prepared for the Annual Parish meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. (See photograph of the five exhibits below.) Peter and Alison took part in a 'Question and Answer' session during the Parish Council AGM and talked with members of the public before and after the meeting.



In February/March, Members of the team attended three consultation meetings regarding **plans for the NHS in West Hertfordshire for the next five years**. Of particular interest is the changing role of NHS Langley House in Garston and the closure in 2016 of the NHS Clinic in Jacketts Field. The proposed strategy for the next five years is to transfer 40% of current hospital visits for treatment at Health Hubs in the community linked with more NHS /Social Care at home. We are investigating how this will be achieved for residents in the Parish and whether the clinic at Jacketts Field could play a part. Nicky Perkins (Tim's wife) has agreed to advise the NP team on NHS issues and opportunities in our area.

Parish Councillor Brenda Kersey invited members of the **Local History Society and Garden Society** to provide information for the Neighbourhood Plan on special topics of interest to these members. Unfortunately, despite thorough preparation and encouragement from Brenda, the public response was poor. This is another example of the challenge that the Parish faces in trying get the public to engage in Neighbourhood Planning. At our next team meeting, Parish Councillor Liz Burns has invited representatives from local four Residents Groups to attend. We hope to enlist their help in putting forward their planning ideas for their local areas.

Peter Warman, Chair.

Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Planning Group,

Tel: 01923 265258

[Peter@warmanconsult.co.uk](mailto:Peter@warmanconsult.co.uk).