

Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan

Bi-monthly Progress Note to Abbots Langley Parish Council – **Report Seven – 6th May 2017**

The **Neighbourhood Planning Group met** on 23rd March 2017.

Work is continuing on:

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

To date we have received 165 comments on our Commonplace site. The team has analysed all these comments - grouping them under ten core topics. Further analysis shows our Commonplace site has gathered 490 contributions (Comments and "Likes") from 78 contributors. Looking ahead Commonplace is suggesting we look again at our use of local networks, event mailing lists, Parish Newsletters, school summer fairs etc. Increasing public involvement will depend on us putting forward specific proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan. This may include site-specific appraisals.

Comments received to date confirm that there is no appetite locally for any significant increase in new housing development, particularly if the capacity for local pupils to attend local schools (primary and secondary) and residents to attend NHS services is not increased. Informal consultations with local GP's confirm that most practices do not have the physical space in current surgeries/facilities to accommodate the wide range of clinics/ testing centres/ scan facilities/ patient discussion groups etc. that are envisaged in the next five years to be moved to the local community (according to the NHS Plan to reduce patient treatment visits to hospitals by 40%.) At the moment, the local Clinical Commissioning Group (Herts Valleys) is focusing on make savings of £48m this year, rather than expanding! Cllr Liz Burns has confirmed from her enquiries that the closed Health Clinic in Jacketts Field is publically listed by the NHS as a plot for sale or leasing for alternative uses.

We have completed our analysis of land ownership of key sites in the parish (using the Land Insight software.) As we were aware from the start of our work, undeveloped land in the Parish is nearly all Green Belt or protected natural landscapes/parkland. The District Planning Authority is focusing its efforts on stimulating economic growth to attract local revenue for its services and investments as encouraged by National Government policies.

Councillor Liz Burns and Peter Warman will be attending a training course on Neighbourhood Planning arranged by Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils on 24th May. Following this course we will be meeting again with our Consultant, Alison Eardley, to continue her work with us, particularly the application for **Government Grant funding** (up to £9000)

At our May team meeting on 25th May, 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.

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