

Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan

Bi-monthly Progress Note to Abbots Langley Parish Council – **Report Eight – 5th July 2017**

The **Neighbourhood Planning Group met** on 25th May 2017 but not in June.

Work is continuing on:

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

Councillor Liz Burns and Peter Warman attended the training course on Neighbourhood Planning arranged by Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils on 24th May. The course material was comprehensive and very useful whilst demonstrating the major challenge we face in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for a Parish as large as Abbots Langley.

Following this course, we met again with our Neighbourhood Planning Consultant, Alison Eardley on 13th June, to continue her work with us. Alison requested an introductory tour of the whole Parish, which took about 2 hours. She is preparing the application for **Government Grant funding** (up to £9000) and is helping us apply for other technical work **that the Government is willing to finance**. In particular, we wish to commission an independent 'Housing Needs Assessment for the Parish.' This process is complex, as a single Neighbourhood Area almost never constitutes a housing market operating in isolation from other areas, and must therefore be assessed in its wider context. The housing needs advice forms part of the evidence base (rather than being a policy document) and provides a firm foundation for us to develop informed neighbourhood housing policies, including policies allocating specific sites for new housing. The method used follows national guidelines for such exercises and is conducted by AECOM – a large planning consultancy.

We have commissioned Commonplace to continue our Neighbourhood Planning Site for a further 12 months at a cost of £600. Once we have prepared an outline Neighbourhood Plan for wider discussion then we should use our Commonplace site to explain it to the public along with public meetings, etc. to invite comments and suggestions.

In addition, as recommended in our Health Check Report, we need to set up a full database of all the material we are assembling for the Neighbourhood Plan including meeting agendas, progress notes etc. and ensure our material is publically available. This is a legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan and becomes part of our final submissions for its assessment. We are exploring what additional services we need to do this work.

We are going to commission the latest aerial photography for the parish, which will show all the new developments in the area to August 2016. The current photography shows developments up to about 2011. We understand that Three Rivers District Council are consulting on their "Sustainability Appraisal - Scoping Report for the New Local Plan" for the District. In the next three months they will be doing further public consultation on potential land for development within the District as part of the Local Plan process. Therefore during the next three months we should be talking with the Planning Department about the potential use of key sites we have identified within the Parish of Abbots Langley.

The next meeting for the Neighbourhood Planning Group is 27th September 2017 at 7pm.

Peter Warman, Chair.

Tel: 01923 265258

Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Planning Group,

Peter@warmanconsult.co.uk.