

## Planning

Context:- The Parish of Leighton-Linslade has been the subject of rapid growth over the last decade and this is expected to continue. Over the past 13 years, at least 4,000 new homes have been delivered with a further 3,000 the subject of detailed planning applications. In addition, 2 key commercial sites within the town centre have been the subject of master planning exercises culminating in the creation of development briefs to help guide future development. Parish population has now risen to over 40,000.

Identifying and Representing Community Views on Planning Matters:- As a standing committee, the Planning and Transport Committee has a membership of 8 councillors. It is serviced by the Corporate Governance Manager and the Town Clerk who is a Chartered Town Planner with over 20 years of experience within both the public and private sectors. Meeting on a 3 week cycle, its primary purpose is to provide the parish with the opportunity to engage in and respond to planning and transport matters. The Committee welcomes public participation. Standing Agenda Item 4 – Questions and Statements provides opportunity to address the committee directly or if preferred otherwise, community views can be made in writing.

In the last 12 month period, the Planning Authority (Central Bedfordshire Council) has received 281 planning applications pertinent to this parish and of those, 52 applications were brought to committee for its consideration with representations made on 48 of them. When invited to do so, the Town Clerk has made verbal representations to the Development Management Committee on behalf of the committee. Formal consultation responses have also been made on emerging policy issues pertinent to the planning authority area that include, the Community Infrastructure Levy and the emerging Local Plan.

At its disposal, the committee has an annual budget of £10,000 which it uses toward highway projects including resident parking schemes. The committee expects to deliver at least two resident parking scheme per political term.

Planning For Real and Neighbourhood Planning:- Adopted in 2007, the parish created the “Big Plan”; a document setting out a vision and projects for the town over the coming decade. The subject of extensive public consultation, this was reviewed with the creation of a second generation Big Plan II. Of those projects not realised, these have been subsumed into the 3 Year Management Plan.

Whilst the parish welcomes the principle of Neighbourhood Planning (Localism Act 2011), the power to invoke has not been taken yet given the level of growth taking place within and adjoining the parish (this position will be reviewed periodically). Moreover, the ability to influence outcomes remains high and to this end, we anticipate public consultation beginning shortly to best understand community outcomes in respect of planning gain. We anticipate that commuted sums as well as land will be transferred directly to the parish in respects of future community and formal play provision (derived from land east development 2,500 houses). By doing this, we can deliver what the parish wants rather than what it is believed to want.