

FOCUS



PLANS FOR LOCAL HOUSING TO BE REVIEWED

The Adopted Local Plan for Basingstoke & Deane and Neighbourhood Plans for Overton and Whitchurch specified many changes locally, most controversially the number and location of new housebuilding. When they were agreed we expected that they would last up to 2029 but changed circumstances and new policies from central government mean that work is already in hand to revise the plans.

Consultation

The first public consultation on a new Local Plan for Basingstoke and Deane will begin in October 2019. Landowners and potential developers have already put forward proposals for about 200 new housing sites across the Borough. A full list will be published later this year. A limited list was published in April 2018. None of these sites have yet been accepted by the Borough Council.

Adoption of a new Local Plan

The new draft Local Plan for Basingstoke and Deane will be published for a statutory six weeks of public consultation in April and May 2021. Further consultation will take place in several stages until the new plan is adopted in the summer of 2023. Neighbourhood Plans will have to be revised to comply with the Adopted Local Plan.

But we might have to find more housing sites sooner

Another central government rule is that all Local Planning Authorities have to show that, through the normal planning policies, they have allocated or allowed enough sites for housing to meet their planned need for the next five years. The Basingstoke & Deane target was set at 850 new homes every year. Several factors, including faster completion of sites in the past two years than was expected, have cast doubt on whether there is still enough housing land available for the next five years. We might have to fast-track allocations before the new plan is available.

Keep it local – Neighbourhood Plans

Both Overton and Whitchurch put in the effort to make Neighbourhood Plans for the previous requirements. It is in our best interests to keep local control over the allocation of housing sites. Whitchurch Town Council is beginning to prepare for a new group of people to revise the Neighbourhood Plan once the Borough Council's intentions are clear.

WHITCHURCH GREEN WEEK

Whitchurch Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency. Following on from this, Whitchurch will be holding a Green Week on 21 to 29 September 2019. Various activities have been organised, full details of which can be found at whitchurchgreen2019.blogspot.com. There is something of interest for everyone; please do support this initiative where you can. Together we can help make a difference.



Picture from whitchurchgreen2019.blogspot.com

70 years since Liberals paved the way to setting up our National Parks.

The Liberals were instrumental in enabling the public to access and enjoy our countryside and to safeguard Areas of Outstanding Beauty.

Sir Arthur Hobhouse was a long-serving English Local Government Liberal Politician, best remembered for his input in establishing National Parks, the basis of which was the Hobhouse Report.

This year celebrates the 70th anniversary of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside 1949 Act.



A blot on the landscape - Bin the incinerator



Local campaign group “Keep Test Valley Beautiful” continue to raise awareness of the need to put a stop to the plan to build an incinerator close to Whitchurch and surrounding villages. More information can be found at bintheincinerator.co.uk and whitchurch.org.uk

Focus Deliveries - Can you help?

Our Focus is distributed throughout Whitchurch by the kindness of volunteers - some are members and some are not. We could always do with more help and so if this is something you could assist with, please do let us know. Contact Linda Stepney on linda.stepney1@outlook.com



Tell Whitchurch Lib Dems your thoughts,

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