

# FOCUS

**Whitchurch Ward**

[www.whitchurchlibdems.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchlibdems.org.uk)



**September  
2013**

**Edited by  
Steve Neilson**

## Have your say on the plans for Whitchurch in the next 15 years

Basingstoke & Deane Council is consulting all the people in the Borough on its draft Local Plan before submitting it for examination by a Government Planning Inspector.

The plan allocates sites for 748 new houses each year across the district.

In Whitchurch, the plan allows for an average of 25 new homes each year, a total of 350 over 15 years.

The plan allocates land south of Bloswood Lane for approximately 150 homes in the next five years. A planning application is already being considered for 89 of them on the land close to the old railway embankment, between Hartley Meadow and Park View.

This site will include 36 new "affordable" homes, either to rent from a Housing Association or part buy, part rent. The developer will have to contribute funds for local facilities, such as extra school places, development of playing fields, community halls or a youth centre and for road

improvements. Along with the Local Plan, an Infrastructure Development Plan estimates what financial contributions from developers will be expected for each site.

The Local Plan provides for sites of a further 200 new homes to be allocated by Whitchurch people through the Neighbourhood Plan (see back of FOCUS).

The proposal for a new car park north of the station is carried forward in the new Local Plan.

Lib Dem Councillor Keith Watts says "this is a good plan for Whitchurch, providing enough new homes for local needs but no more. We have seen-off the people who were trying to impose an extra 200 house on us earlier in the year."

There will be an exhibition on the draft Local Plan in the Parish Hall from 2.00 to 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17th September. That will be followed by a public meeting about the Local Plan on 24th September - see right.

### **TWO PLANS - WHICH IS WHICH AND WHY?**

Consultation has now started on the draft Local Plan and the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

The **Local Plan** is for the development of the whole of Basingstoke and Deane up to the year 2029 - see left on this page.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** will set out more detail over the same period for Whitchurch alone. Whitchurch people will write it (see back of FOCUS).

#### **Public meeting on the draft Local Plan**

#### **for Basingstoke & Deane**

Learn how the draft Local Plan will affect Whitchurch, then put your comments in writing.

**Tuesday 24th September**

**Gill Nethercott Centre**

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m.**

(tea & coffee for sale)

Meeting organised by Keith Watts,

#### **Contact the Whitchurch Liberal Democrat FOCUS Team**

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# What is neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act. It enables local communities to have more say in where new houses, businesses, shops and community facilities should go in their local area and can allocate sites for development.

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by parish councils, town councils or neighbourhood forums and are adopted by the borough council to provide additional detail alongside the Local Plan.

According to our official town web site, [www.whitchurch.org.uk](http://www.whitchurch.org.uk), Whitchurch Town Council has initiated the preparation of the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan (The Plan) through the newly appointed Steering Committee. The Plan covers the Parish of Whitchurch and will provide a basis for its development for the next 15 years in conjunction with the evolving BDBC Local Plan. The Plan will be prepared and if adopted via referendum, will allow the Community to:

- establish the community's vision for the future
- develop criteria and choose

which sites are allocated for what kind of development

- choose where new homes, shops and offices to be built
- have a say on what new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided
- grant planning permission for the new buildings you want to see go ahead

An appeal for support from local residents was made at recent public meetings. Offers to volunteer can be made on line at [www.neighbourhood.plan@hampshire-tc.gov.uk](mailto:www.neighbourhood.plan@hampshire-tc.gov.uk)

## Keith Watts opposes plan to build houses on allotments

A planning application has been put in for houses to be built on the allotments in Blosswood Drive. Keith Watts has promised to oppose this plan resolutely "I believe that this land should remain as allotments close to the centre of Whitchurch. People moving into houses there are likely to complain about noise from the factories in Ardglan Road, causing unnecessary problems. The proposed access from Caesars Way is not suitable."

# Do you want new homes to be built in Whitchurch?

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council keeps a Register of people who have applied for an affordable home in Whitchurch.

For very good reasons, the Council does not share personal information with Councillors about the people on the Register.

"We only know about people who have approached us, usually asking for help" says Keith Watts "That is OK except when we are arguing for more homes to be built. Then it would be helpful if we knew who needs a home. We don't want more personal data.

"There is no list of people who want to buy a first home locally.

"Some people who don't need a new house agree that some new houses are needed each year."

If you support a planned approach to providing new homes in Whitchurch, please fill in the form below and return it or email [cllr.keith.watts@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.keith.watts@basingstoke.gov.uk)

If you need personal advice about housing, telephone BDBC Housing Advice Services on (01256) 844844

## If you want to see new homes built we want to hear from you

I am waiting for a home to rent  I want to buy a first home in Whitchurch

I don't need a new home but I support those people who do  (Please tick one box)

Comments:

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

**Return this form to Causeway House, 15 Newbury Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7DW**

**or post it to Liberal Democrats, Freepost NAT6149, Whitchurch, Hants, RG28 7BR**

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