

# Bowers Bugle Extra

We're on the web – [www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil](http://www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil)  
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## Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan Update

### Where to develop in the Neighbourhood Area?



Basildon Borough Council's Publication Local Plan (Regulation 19) is currently being consulted on. Policy SD3 which is important to our Neighbourhood Plan designated area proposes that the Parish Council allocate 1,350 homes.

**ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS LEAFLET YOU WILL FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION AND DROP-IN SESSION**

The Parish Council embarked on developing a Neighbourhood Plan in 2016 and consulted with the community on a draft version of Phase one of the Plan at this time last year. Prior to March 2018 our Neighbourhood Plan proposed a very different strategy for housing growth in our area compared to that of Borough Council's then administration proposals.

However, after the May elections, with a change of administration, the Parish Council succeeded in lobbying the new administration to relook at proposals in our Master Plan Report and as a result on 18<sup>th</sup> October the Borough Council proposed that in their Local Plan, the Parish Council was given the responsibility to allocate land to deliver 1,350 homes in the Parish Council's designated Neighbourhood Plan area.

The Parish Council is now looking at Phase two of its Neighbourhood Plan and where to allocate these new homes.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018 a public meeting was held at St Margaret's School to inform on how the Parish Council intends to move forward with the Neighbourhood Plan. This meeting was well attended and the Parish Council's consultant Neil Homer, explained how we got to the position we are in and what happens next. This presentation can be found on the Parish Council's website along with other documentation regarding the progress of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan.

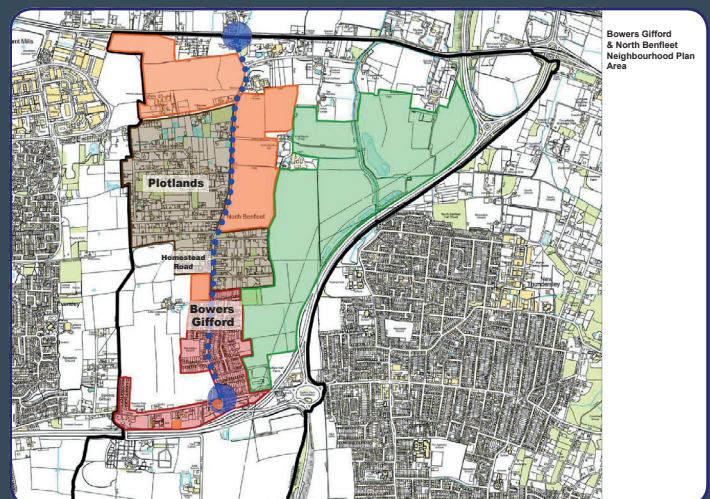
### Call for Sites:

To enable the Parish Council to identify the land to allocate it now proposes to contact land owners, who have land or under-used plots to put forward the land for consideration to develop. This was previously an exercise undertaken by Basildon Council and the process is known as a "Call for Sites".

The Parish Council does not have the details of all land owners. In the Plotlands all plotland residents will receive a letter asking for interested parties to contact the Parish Council giving details of land which the owners wish to put forward for development. A similar letter will be sent out to landowners living outside the plotlands by Basildon Council, on the Parish Council's behalf. The closing date for responding to the Parish Council's "Call for Sites" will be 14th January 2019.

The Parish Council is unable to make direct contact with land interests who completed the previous "Call for Sites" by Basildon Council as General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which came into effect on 25th May 2018, preventing the Parish Council making direct contact with individuals/businesses without first being given express prior permission to do so.

Map - Neighbourhood Plan Area



### Parish Council Meeting – Change of time. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

6.30 pm – 7.30 pm.

Local Plan Drop-In

7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

The Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane

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## ACT NOW!

Basildon Borough Council is asking residents and business who live and work in the Borough to comment on their Revised Publication Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation by 5.00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This is the final opportunity for residents to have their say on where development goes in the Borough before the Local Plan is sent to the Government's Planning Inspector for approval in 2019. (You can find out more about Basildon's Local Plan proposals on its website: [www.basildonlocalplan.co.uk](http://www.basildonlocalplan.co.uk))

### The Parish Council is holding a drop-in session on:

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in The Benbow Club, Bowers Gifford.**

**If you need help completing your response to Basildon Council's Revised Publication Local Plan Consultation come along for an informal chat and help completing the forms.**

**Local Plan policy SD3 is the most important for the Parish.**

Since Borough Council elections the Parish Council has been endeavouring to persuade Basildon Council's new administration that we, as a Parish Council, should be given the opportunity, through the Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan, to decide where development in our village should go. (Unfortunately saying **NO** to development was never an option)

On 18<sup>th</sup> October at their Full Council Meeting Basildon Council agreed to publish the Revised Publication Local Plan (Regulation 19) for consultation. Within the Local Plan documentation Policy SD3 gives the Parish Council the responsibility of finding land for 1,350 homes, together with a new primary school, new open spaces and new services. This is a BIG responsibility for the Parish Council and all who live and work in the Parish but one the Parish Council and Steering Group have fought hard to achieve.

Residents now need to respond to the Local Plan Consultation by 5.00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December. This can be made individually or collectively as a group and at the **drop-in session** mentioned above the Parish Council will be able to inform you of their views regarding the Local Plan consultation and you will have the opportunity to add your signature to the Parish Council's comments if you agree with them.

**Please remember your comments must relate only to the "Legality and Soundness" of the Local Plan document**

## ACT NOW!

Does the Local Plan affect you? **YES**

Is it important you give your views? **YES** - your views will help to shape the future of where we live, so it's important to let the Planning Inspector know what they are.

### The reasons to respond to Basildon's Revised Publication Local Plan Consultation:

- Your comments will have a bearing on the decision made by the planning Inspector.
- To make the Planning Inspector aware of the impact that the proposals in the Local Plan will have on Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet
- To let the Borough Council and Planning Inspector know what you think of the Local Plan and more importantly let them know if there are any aspects that you disagree with or would like to see changed – Make your voice heard be positive don't just say "I don't like this or that" give positive reasons why you agree or disagree.
- Engaging with the consultation process lets the Planning Inspector know you are interested in what happens locally and where we all live.

### How can you do this:

Basildon Council's Local Plan Response Booklet is a lengthy document but don't be put off completing it - you live/work in the Parish and local knowledge counts - particularly to the Planning Inspector who will not be familiar with the area and wants to know what your view is.

The Parish Council is putting a response together to comment on the Local Plan if you would like to join in this response you can add your name to the response by coming along to the drop-in session on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. in the Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane, and add your signature. Hard copies of Basildon Council's Revised Publication Response Booklet will also be available if you wish to complete them individually and send them to Basildon Council Planning Officers.

If you are completing your response individually you need to make sure your comments have the maximum impact. **Don't forget to sign the comments you submit or they won't count.** What you say and how you say it matters, focus on what is important to you. You will need to make reference to the policies/sites within the Revised Publication Local Plan documentation. To do this you will need to log-on to the Borough Council website [www.basildonlocalplan.co.uk](http://www.basildonlocalplan.co.uk).

You can also go on-line to complete the form, to take part in the consultation and insert your comments on line.

[www.basildonlocalplan.co.uk](http://www.basildonlocalplan.co.uk)