



## BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

# TIME'S RUNNING OUT TO OBJECT TO MORE HOUSES IN BIDDENHAM

15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Biddenham resident,

I wrote to you recently about the plans, some now formally submitted, to build hundreds more houses between Biddenham and Bromham. We are fighting to avoid this. As I write, hundreds of people have objected to the planning application for 250 houses west of Gold Lane (18/00140/MAO). *Thank you!* If you haven't already objected, please go to [www.have-a-say.co.uk/1800140MAO](http://www.have-a-say.co.uk/1800140MAO). There's still time.

Fewer people have objected to the **Policies** in the draft **Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035**. It is vitally important that we get as many individual objections to these policies as we can. If they make it into the final plan, **we will definitely get development on the sites west of Gold Lane and near Bromham Bridge**. As a reminder, the draft Policies are printed on the back of this letter.

Objecting to these policies using the Borough Council's website is not easy. Since my last letter, we've talked to people at Borough Hall and they have agreed to allow simple emails and letters too. So, if you've yet to object to the policies, please do so. You have four options (I recommend option 2!):

1. **By email or letter:** Write your objection, give your name and address and quoting the Policy numbers. Explain you are contributing to the Local Plan 2035 Consultation. Email [planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk) or post your letter to the Borough at the address below.
2. **Go to [www.have-a-say.co.uk/BPCP19](http://www.have-a-say.co.uk/BPCP19)** (for Policy 19) or [www.have-a-say.co.uk/BPCP23](http://www.have-a-say.co.uk/BPCP23) (for Policy 23) where you can generate and send correctly formatted emails in a few simple steps. *This is quick and easy, and works brilliantly.*
3. **Online:** Go to [www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035). For question 5 tick 'Don't Know', question 6 answer 'No' and tick the first three boxes. For question 6a, use **box 2 only** to select Policy 19 or Policy 23 (you have to do the process twice to object to both policies). In the text box for question 6, enter your reasons for objecting to the policy chosen. For help with this, please refer to my last letter or go to the village website at [biddenham.org.uk](http://biddenham.org.uk).
4. **Paper copies of the Local Plan Consultation document** are available from Borough Hall and Libraries. You can complete an objection by hand and deliver it to the Planning Department, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP.

The deadline is **5<sup>th</sup> March**. Please don't leave it too late – do it today! Each separate objection counts, so please ask all the adults in your household to object separately. If we all pull together, and make ourselves heard, we believe we may force a rethink. But we need a truly massive number of objections to really be sure we are taken seriously.

**Please don't sit by while others object. Biddenham needs you to take action!**

Peter Chase  
Chairman, Biddenham Parish Council

- *We feel the minimal cost of these letters is worth it to protect Biddenham from yet more housing.*
- *Some of us are going door-to-door with template objection letters. Sorry if we disturb you, but we hope to be as quick as we can. Please be patient with us; we're all volunteers.*



**Extracts from Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035  
Draft Plan for Submission January 2018**

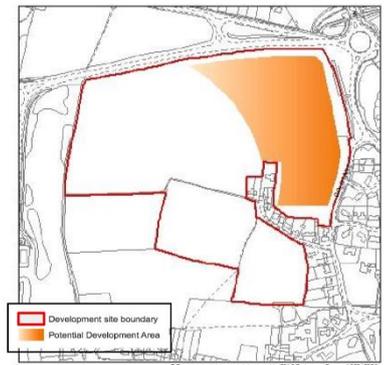
**Land at Gold Lane, Biddenham – currently protected by Policy AD43 (Urban Spaces)**

7.30 Currently agricultural land and in close proximity to the Biddenham conservation area and a number of listed buildings, Land at Gold Lane Biddenham is in a prominent location which provides the opportunity to achieve a high quality gateway development respecting the transition between the countryside and the urban area. Due to the topography of the site development will need to be sensitive to the distant views and potential impacts on local heritage.

**Policy 19 - Land at Gold Lane, Biddenham**

Land at Gold Lane, Biddenham will be developed for residential use for up to 160 dwellings as well as strategic open space. Key principles of development:

- i. A comprehensive design code ensuring that the development is designed to reflect the site's important location and to preserve the setting of heritage assets;
- ii. Provision of a range of housing types and sizes;
- iii. Provision of a bus stop within 400m of the site on Deep Spinney / Gold Lane;
- iv. Provision of bus, pedestrian and cycle routes at appropriate locations throughout the development;
- v. Provision of a pedestrian crossing on Bromham Road;
- vi. Provision of a Transport Assessment detailing the impact on surrounding highways and mitigation measures;
- vii. Assessment of impact on landscape and submission of a comprehensive landscape scheme;
- viii. Provision of open space to west of site to prevent coalescence with Bromham;
- ix. Consideration of impacts on historic environment to minimise harm and inclusion of mitigation measures where necessary;
- x. Pre-determination archaeological evaluation;
- xi. Contribution to the preservation/enhancement of Biddenham Village Pond and the habitats it provides;
- xii. Assessment of the nature and extent of ground contamination and preparation of a remediation strategy for the site including methods of disposing of contaminated material, measures to prevent the pollution of surface and ground water, and provisions for future monitoring, to be approved by the Council.



**Land to the rear of Bromham Road – currently protected by Policy AD42 (Local Gaps)**

7.34 Land is allocated for residential development. Planning permission will be permitted for a design and layout that reflect the established spatial character and landscape character of this location.

**Policy 23 – Land to the rear of Bromham Road, Biddenham**

Land to the rear of Bromham Road, Biddenham will be developed for residential use to deliver housing. Key principles for development:

- i. Provision of a range of housing types and sizes.
- ii. Provision of a landscaping and tree planting scheme within the site and along site boundaries.
- iii. Provision of a strategically designed and phased Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance. As part of the site is within the flood zone 2 and 3a, a flood risk assessment will be required as part of any planning application.
- iv. Provision of a pedestrian crossing and an extension to the footpath along the southern side of Bromham Road to provide safe access to the bus stop.
- v. Submission of a biodiversity report with appropriate mitigation and enhancements.
- vi. Provision of a heritage statement that addresses the impact of the development on designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- vii. Pre-determination archaeological evaluation

