



Neighbourhood Plan

Your neighbourhood; your future

2. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

- Neighbourhood Planning was introduced in the Localism Act of 2011 which came into effect in April 2012.
- Wootton Parish Council applied for the designation of the whole of the Parish of Wootton as a Neighbourhood Plan area and Bedford Borough Council endorsed the proposal in a decision statement dated 9 June 2015.
- A "Launch Event" to promote local awareness about the Neighbourhood Plan was held at Wootton Scout Hut across two sessions on Friday 8 September 2017 and Saturday 9 September 2017 and these sessions were well attended.
- A Steering Group was formed to carry out the preparation of the plan for Wootton Parish and to gather community views and essential evidence.
- The comments made in the first stages of consultation helped to identify key issues and options to address them, including locations for small scale future growth to meet local need. This feedback has, therefore, enabled policies to be determined and the Neighbourhood Plan to be drafted.
- This consultation seeks to ensure that the Plan has been drafted in line with the views and requirements of the community.
- This Neighbourhood Plan will be amended, where necessary, following this consultation and then submitted to Bedford Borough Council for the required Regulation 16 consultation and independent examination.
- The Plan, if successful at examination, will then proceed to a local referendum organised by Bedford Borough Council to ensure that it enjoys local support.
- It will be brought into legal force by the Local Planning Authority if it supported by more than 50% of those voting in the referendum. It will then become part of the statutory development plan and thus help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

Find out more by visiting www.wootton-pc.gov.uk