

# Neighbourhood Development Plan



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## What's been happening?

Since our last newsletter in we have continued to meet twice monthly to review our progress and plan our next steps. We held a second Open Day on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February on the forecourt of Hatt Garage. It was a cold, windy day, but a heart-warming 50 or so people stopped by on their way to the shop to share their views and hopes for our community. Once again, we were not canvassing views about what should go into the plan but were asking what the residents would like the parish to look like, and how it would be to live here, in 20 years time. The findings were broadly similar to the initial Open Day comments.

On analysing the results obtained on our initial consultation day we identified 26 different areas that attracted the most comments. These were then used to create an on-line survey that was advertised

through our emailing list and the Hatt Chat & Botus Banter Facebook page. The results of this survey largely corroborated our initial analysis, with one or two additional insights.

We are now in a position to publish a Vision Statement based on our findings. It is important to recognise that this statement represents an aspiration and is not a plan or a statement of intent. It will however give us an intended destination to aspire to while conforming to the obligations and limitations set by National and Local Policy. Consultation is an on-going process and we will be seeking your views on the various aspects of the plan as we go on. We are also open to any other comments you may have on the work done so far or any other matters relating to Neighbourhood Planning.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Parish of Botus Fleming will be defined by its quiet, rural nature by protecting the distinct character of both our villages by maintaining our rustic boundary, by preserving our countryside, and protecting our fauna and flora for recreation and community wellbeing.

We will have responded to the housing needs of our community when necessary with sympathetic development. All development would have been undertaken only to satisfy demonstrable local housing needs, and conform to the rural character comprising of only small developments in keeping with their surroundings.

Any new housing development would have provided a level of affordable, starter and other appropriate accommodation to meet the needs of our community.

We will have obtained funding to construct a permanent recreation area together with a community centre with changing facilities. Sporting and recreational facilities for young and older people would be available.

The community centre would be available for all to utilise in a diverse range of activities, encouraging varieties of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities and activities to enable opportunities for all, including youngsters and older people.

There would be integrated public transport (with associated pedestrian walkways and cycle routes) and safer roads (through effective traffic management; traffic calming, cameras etc) in order to serve the growing and changing population.

There would be more opportunities for small businesses and assistance for parishioners to work from home by making high speed broadband available for all members of the community.

Our community would be cleaner with appropriate recycling, refuse and dog mess-depositing facilities. All would assist in keeping our environment clean and tidy by becoming active in the collection of refuse. More proactivity, through community involvement and neighbourhood watch, against fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Improved services, facilities and amenities will have improved our quality of life, created a sense of well-being, promoted community safety and enabled active and healthy lifestyles for all members of the community. The sense of community spirit and cohesion will have been promoted, fostered and increased.

We will have a stronger and vibrant neighbourhood and rural economy, improved community safety through neighbourhood watch, amenities and facilities for all users, and ensure that our parish remains a special place to live.

## What Next?

We hope to soon have our own website dedicated to the Botusfleming Neighbourhood Plan. You will then be able to keep up to date with our progress. Mean while, you can find information about us on the Parish Council website: [www.botusfleming.org.uk](http://www.botusfleming.org.uk) . Follow the link to Reports, Policies and Documents.

Although we are a rural community, we must not forget that we are also home to a number of businesses that provide services and livelihoods for many people. We will be making a special effort to engage with you in the near future, as the neighbourhood cannot survive and thrive without your vital contributions.

We have also been actively engaged in preparing for the launch of a

Neighbourhood Watch, and are pleased to announce that our Parish Coordinator has now been formally accepted. Next steps on this soon.

One of our aims is to promote a stronger and closer community. On the weekend of June 17-18<sup>th</sup> many communities across the UK will be hosting either The Big Lunch, a community cohesion event promoted by the Eden Project, or the Big Get Together to celebrate the community work of the late Jo Cox MP. Members of the NDP committee would be happy to support and help facilitate such an event if there is sufficient community interest. Please get in touch if you are interested.

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If you don't have email you can write your comments and leave them with the Shop in an envelope addressed to NDP. We are grateful to the Shop for offering this service.