

## **Your community, your future, your say**

Whether you live in an established neighbourhood such as Downs Barn, or a new one such as Redhouse Park, the one thing you can be sure of is change. Housing, shopping and leisure are just three examples where life is changing fast, and this will bring real changes to the look and feel of your neighbourhood.

In the past, residents have had little choice but to wait for developers or the local authority to come up with plans. All that changed in 2012 with the government's new Localism agenda.

Neighbourhood Planning is a key part of Localism. It is part of a national drive to simplify the planning system and get the right balance between economic, social and environmental needs. Lots of parishes throughout the country are getting involved in Neighbourhood Planning. Why? It is a fantastic opportunity for people to shape the future on a local scale.

So where do you fit in? Perhaps you want to preserve or improve an open space or historic street scene. Or maybe you think your community needs a new transport link or sports facility?

The good news is that GLPC is ready to get the ball rolling.

### **Let's begin!**

The Parish has now received official approval to prepare twin neighbourhood plans, which cover the whole Parish (see map). One plan will cover the area north of the H3 and the other the area to the south.



Each plan will produce a vision, aims and draft policies; the 'house rules' for future development. Residents will look at the way Housing, Shops, Community Centres, Local Businesses, Paths, Redways and Roads, Parks, Playing Fields and Open Spaces could be preserved, developed or improved over the coming years.

The plans must be realistic, meet the needs of local people, and comply with MK Council's overarching, strategic policies for the whole of Milton Keynes.

Once adopted, the Great Linford Neighbourhood Plans will have considerable power. Developers will have to take them seriously if they start to plan new housing estates, schools and so on in the area.

Key steps in the process include:

- Steering Group set up to ensure process is fair
- GLPC issues a questionnaire to all residents
- Meetings to confirm the planning issues that local people wish to address and how they wish to see local areas developed and/or preserved over the next 15-20 years
- Produce draft plan based on agreed vision, aims and policies
- Residents give feedback on the draft plan, which is amended where necessary
- An independent examiner checks that the plans are consistent with MK Council's Local Plan and Core Strategy and gives the all clear
- Referendum: residents vote for or against their Neighbourhood Plan
- If a majority vote 'yes', the Plans will join the top tier of planning policies and guide future development in the entire Parish.

In April you will receive a questionnaire which we urge you to fill in. To make it easy, we will be setting up special reply post-boxes around the Parish.

Alternatively you can complete the questionnaire on line – look out for the link on this website which will be available for you to use from early April.

Please get involved. This is your future, your community and your say!