

WHAT IS THE STEVINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

Once it is adopted the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan becomes a legal planning document which must be taken into account when decisions are made about future growth and development of our village.



Stevington residents were consulted about their wishes for the future of Stevington in a series of meetings in November 2015 and their views on a range of topics have informed policy development. Since then, the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and the Parish Council have been developing

Stevington Policy on Housing and Growth, Design and Heritage, Environment, Local Community, Infrastructure and Business & Employment with the help of a company called Urban Vision who write national guidelines and train planning inspectors.

It has taken longer than originally envisaged to get to this stage because national and local priorities have changed and continue to change, but we are nearly there now!



DON'T CONFUSE THE BEDFORD BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2035 WITH THE STEVINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

They are complementary but not the same document.

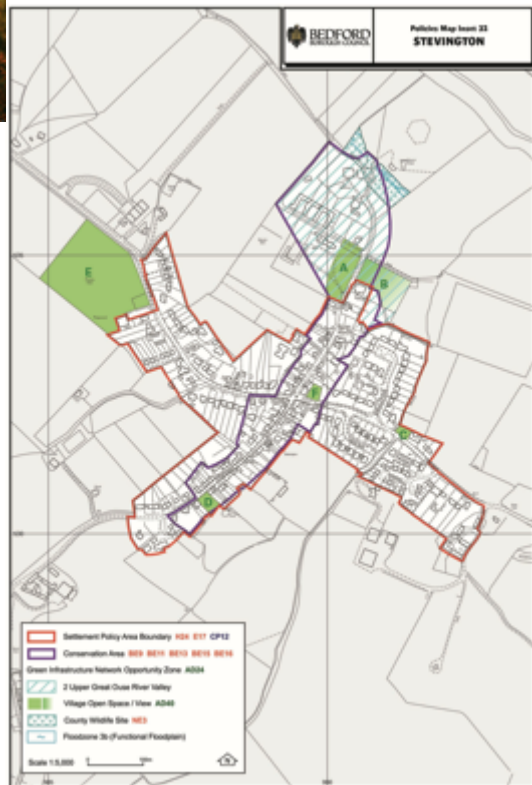
In the current Draft Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2035 (which is open for consultation until 29th March. See inside back cover), Stevington is not identified as either a Group 1 or Group 2 area but developments in North Bedfordshire will affect Stevington. 2,500 new homes by 2035 are planned at a new garden village on the Colworth site near Sharnbrook. Bromham and Clapham will gain 500 homes each.



Oakley, Turvey, Carlton, Harrold and Milton Ernest will all grow by 25-50 homes within the life of the plan. Stevington Neighbourhood Plan needs to be read within this context.

YOU TOLD US

- That you valued the distinctive character of Stevington as a rural village, particularly its heritage, landscape, views, design characteristics and community.
- That you would support housing development and rural business that did not compromise this.
- That you wanted development only within the existing SPA (Settlement Policy Area)



Settlement Policy Area Map

- That you wanted sustainable growth and that you would support 10-15 new homes during the life of the Plan (up to 2035) that meet local needs. These are likely to be smaller homes for young families, the elderly or disabled and affordable homes.
- That you valued green space and neighbourhood amenities and did not want to see development land overcrowded.

The Stevington Neighbourhood Plan has identified Heritage and Wildlife sites such as the Grade 1 Listed St. Mary's Church and Churchyard, the Holy Well and the Grade 2 Listed Windmill, which is the last working Post Mill in Bedfordshire. Local Green Space has been identified to protect Stevington from unsympathetic development. The sites that you identified are marked on the map below.



Identified Green Spaces



WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

If you want more information about the Draft Stevington Neighbourhood Plan and the evidence used to develop it, visit the dedicated website at www.stevington.com.

If you have questions or comments about the Neighbourhood Plan, or your views were not part of the original consultation in November 2015, you can participate in one of the following ways:

- **Attend a drop-in Q&A with members of the Parish Council and Working Group**
 - 24th March in the Village Hall (after the defibrillator training) 12-1pm
 - 7th April in the Village Hall (after the Litter Pick) 12-1pm
 - 14th April in The Church Room during Community Shop hours 10-12noon.
- **Complete the response form available on the websites:**
 - <http://stevington.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>
 - www.stevington.comand email it to stevingtonpc@live.co.uk
- **Alternatively you can put a paper copy of the response form through one of the following doors,**
 - Graham Read - 60 Park Road
 - Andrew Lockwood - 42 Silver Street
 - Jane Thomas - Walnut Tree Cottage, West End
 - Linda Penney - Rosemary Cottage, 30 Court Lane
 - Sarah Bush - Twin Cottage, Church Road

All comments will be considered and addressed in the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan so that it reflects your wishes for the future of Stevington. We anticipate this happening by early summer 2018.

Once this has been done Bedford Borough Council will follow a procedure called Regulation 14 which ends with a Referendum in which residents will be asked to vote 'Yes' or 'No' to adopting the Neighbourhood Plan.

And then, who knows, Stevington Neighbourhood Plan might be finished by Autumn 2018!