

## Planning for the Future—the Neighbourhood Plan

As you may have heard, the Parish Council have decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. So far we have been verified by Milton Keynes Council as the appropriate body to write a Neighbourhood Plan for Haversham-cum-Little Linford Parish and applied for and been awarded a grant to cover the first tranche of work. This has enabled us to engage a very experienced consultant to help us with the technical aspects of our plan.

### WHAT IS THE POINT OF A NEIGHBOUR PLAN? WHAT CAN IT DO FOR US?

In very simple terms, a Neighbourhood Plan is:

A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications

Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority

A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place

We can create a plan that allows us to define planning policies that reflect the priorities of Haversham cum Little Linford and have real legal weight. The whole community will then decide at a referendum vote whether the local authority should bring the plan into force.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will be an important document with real legal force, therefore there are certain formal procedures that it will have to go through, including examination by a Planning Inspector. The whole process is likely to take around two years.

It is important to understand that a Neighbourhood Plan can't over-ride or ignore local or national planning policies, but nonetheless can have a significant impact on development in a local area.

Less than a year ago we seemed to be facing a development of at least 6,000 houses right in the heart of the parish. This was something the parish council and much of the community felt would have been totally inappropriate for Haversham cum Little Linford. Thankfully, following significant local objections, common sense prevailed and that idea is no longer part of Plan:MK – Milton Keynes' local plan for the next 15 years which is currently out for public consultation.

Given that reprieve, we have an opportunity as a community to think about what kind of development **would** be acceptable; what type, size and location of development would make a **positive** impact on our community. What things are important to us? What do we need to protect? What could be improved?

As an important early step in this process, the parish council plan to hold an Open Meeting early in the New Year to explain more about the Neighbourhood Planning Process and find out what YOU think about these issues. Please look out for details on the Haversham cum Little Linford website and a letter which will be distributed throughout the parish.

**Your views are really important, so we hope that you will be able to come along to the meeting to share them.**

If you already know that you want to get involved in helping the parish council prepare the plan, please email the parish clerk:

[haversham.ltlinfordclerk@gmail.com](mailto:haversham.ltlinfordclerk@gmail.com) explaining what skills and interests you could bring to the process.

**Pam Williams**  
**Parish Councillor**