

# ABBOTS LEIGH, HAM GREEN, PILL and EASTON-IN-GORDANO

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **A Reminder - What is the Neighbourhood Plan?**

When formally adopted the Neighbourhood Plan will become a statutory document against which planning applications can be assessed. It takes account of all North Somerset's Core Strategies (Green Belt, Environmental Protection, Climate Change etc.), but adds our own local policies and community actions. The Plan runs till 2026, but will be updated when NSC makes a new strategic Local Plan 2038.

The vision is 'to create and maintain a distinctive, stable and sustainable neighbourhood which meets local needs and promotes strong communities'. The Plan covers the area from Beggar Bush Lane at Leigh Woods down through Abbots Leigh, Ham Green and Pill to Easton-In-Gordano and to the Severn Estuary. Royal Portbury Dock is within the Plan area but has its own planning and development rules. COVID-19 has meant the public consultation period has been extended to **12 September** when wider public engagement will have been possible. It will then be amended in the light of comments, and submitted to North Somerset Council and then to a Planning Inspector for examination and decision before being subject to a final local referendum.

#### **HOW TO COMMENT**

- Are there bits you like? Is there something missing? Would you add anything?
- Do you object to any of the ideas? Can you give us your support?
- The Plan and Background Papers are [available here](#).
- When social distancing restrictions are lifted copies of the full Plan and seven background papers will be available at the Pill Resource Centre and at shops, pubs and other outlets across the area when they are once again open again to the public.
- Make your comments by [e-mail](#), making clear who you are, to which organisation you are linked, and on which chapter/paragraph you are commenting

#### **Some of the key proposals are set out below**

##### **HOUSING**

**Key Objective:** Contribute to meeting local housing need through a mix of tenure, size & affordability.

##### **Proposals**

- Allocate two sites for development in Ham Green at Orchard View and Chapel Pill Lane, one a mixed-use redevelopment of a derelict site, the other for affordable housing
- Avoid major development elsewhere and protect the Green Belt
- Minimise the carbon footprint and energy requirements of new development

##### **TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT**

**Key Objective:** Avoid increasing traffic congestion on the A369 and the Pill Loop and reduce air pollution

##### **Proposals**

- Promote active travel focussing on accessibility, convenience and safety of cycle and walking routes
- Consider better parking management and possible restrictions throughout the area
- Protect, maintain and enhance Rights of Way and pathways in the Neighbourhood Area

- Take into account the impact on Pill and its environment of the re-opening of Pill Railway Station
- Improve Infrastructure and facilities for older people and people with a disability
- Take into account the impact of the growth of electric vehicle use

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**Key Objective:** Sustain the ecological strengths and bio-diversity of the area whilst protecting its most vulnerable environmental assets

### **Proposals**

- Maintain the Green Belt
- Protect high quality landscape and areas of woodland and grassland
- Preserve and enhance designated protection areas and wildlife sites

## **HERITAGE**

**Key Objective:** Respect, preserve and protect the history and the heritage of the built environment

### **Proposals**

- Ensure development reflects the distinctiveness and setting of the historic environment
- Examine the desirability and feasibility of a Conservation Area in Abbots Leigh

## **ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT**

**Key Objective:** Support additional jobs for local people

### **Proposals**

- Support home working and the conversion of redundant buildings for workshops or small businesses
- Continue the up-grading of digital infrastructure
- Encourage school/business links, local job placements, wider local advertisement of job opportunities

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Key Objective:** Respond to climate change and move towards a carbon neutral neighbourhood

### **Proposals**

- Encourage local environmental initiatives (e.g. tree planting, rewilding)
- Promote the installation of solar PV systems where appropriate
- Investigate the establishment of local wind-turbine energy generation capacity
- Review flood risk of existing settlements and avoid flood risk zones in new development.

## **COMMUNITY**

**Key Objective:** Protect, maintain and enhance public Open Spaces, Rights of Way and pathways

### **Proposals**

- Ensure no development on the Open Spaces of the Neighbourhood Area
- Improve and enhance the Pill Precinct
- Support sport/recreation uses on Beggar Bush Lane
- Provide financial and other support to community organisations and the Community Centre