



## Blockley Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2015

This newsletter and the accompanying survey have been produced by Blockley Parish Council and are being delivered to every home in the Parish.

The previous survey, sent to homes in Blockley village and Northwick Park, was about **housing need**. This one is about **your views on new housing development**.

Cotswold District Council's draft local plan, which was out for public consultation until 27<sup>th</sup> February, has proposed 51 new homes on 3 sites in Blockley as part of the District's total housing requirement to March 2031. CDC has informed the Parish Council that if it does not support these proposed sites, BPC should look for alternatives that are available, deliverable, and provide the required numbers: hence this survey.

The number of new homes proposed by CDC is not inconsistent with the Parish Plan. In the past, Blockley has accommodated some 60 new dwellings over a 20 year period, but the scale and phasing of development are crucial. The Parish Council has advised CDC that it is consulting further with the Parish, and that it aims to submit new evidence to CDC by the end of April 2015. Clearly, we have no guarantee that CDC will accept and act on this additional evidence, but BPC thinks that it is important to submit it and hopes that it will impact on CDC's local plan, going forward.

In 2010, the Parish Plan revealed that 62 per cent of respondents said that housing development should be restricted to 1 to 5 homes per year within the Parish. (1100 questionnaires were distributed; 172 were returned, and approximately 160 responded on the issue of housing development).

More recently, the housing site assessments that CDC asked BPC to undertake in early 2014 were the subject of a public consultation in March 2014. (130 residents signed in on arrival, and the estimated total attendance was 150). The numbers commenting on the various sites varied. The consultation revealed that:

- Site BK5 , land north of Sheafhouse Farm (Little Shoe Broad): 15% (8 out of 55) said that the whole site was potentially suitable for development;
- Site BK8, land at Sheafhouse Farm: 61% (25 out of 41) said that the site was potentially suitable;
- Site BK14A, The Limes, Station Road: 83% (43 out of 52) said that the site was potentially suitable.

(Note: These figures include respondents who thought that the sites would be suitable with mitigation measures)

District and County Council advice is that, notwithstanding BPC's position on housing development (even if that is a full rejection of an application), we should negotiate with developers to ensure that, in the event the application is eventually approved, we would get the best possible arrangement for the site. This would include green barriers, distance from existing housing etc.

The Parish Council is aware that some parishioners believe that any negotiation would suggest that BPC supports an application. The Parish Council believes that the advice from the District and County Council should be heeded, but BPC would only negotiate with developers if that were the majority view of the Blockley community.

Your views are important!

Please take a few moments to read and complete the survey. This is a crucial stage of the consultation process on CDC's plan.

Please then return it by **10<sup>th</sup> April** at the latest in the envelope provided to:

Blockley: Blockley Shop & Café (box in Shop)

Aston Magna: Batsford Timber Ltd, Aston Magna GL56 9QQ (box in Reception area)

Draycott: Vale Bridgecraft Show Centre, Draycott Business Centre, Draycott GL56 9JU (box in show centre)

Paxford: Paxford Village Hall (green postbox on outside of main door)

Or post it to the Parish Clerk, Mrs Sharon Henley, 19 Bleriot Road, Upper Rissington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 2NN.

Alternatively you can download the survey from the Blockley Parish Council website at [www.blockley.org.uk](http://www.blockley.org.uk), it will be on the front page and then email it back to the Clerk on email [blockleypclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:blockleypclerk@btinternet.com).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP**