



Houghton Regis Town Council

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Delivered to all properties in Houghton Regis

Future Development in and around Houghton Regis....

This is your chance to have your say.....

The Government's growth agenda requires significant new development in Luton and southern Bedfordshire, 43,000 new homes and 35,000 new jobs in total across the area by 2031. This scale of development requires a robust planning framework to ensure that development is appropriate and sustainable. The planning of this growth is being managed by the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee. This Committee is producing a comprehensive development plan to guide development. It is a fairly lengthy process and is still very much in its initial stages, however the first planning document to be produced is the Core Strategy which covers all types of development and land use. Any individual or organisation interested or concerned over development within their town and the surrounding area should seek to be actively involved in this process by reading the Core Strategy and completing the response questionnaire.

The full document and associated questionnaire can be found at www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk (*consultation responses can be submitted via this site*) or can be viewed at various other locations throughout Luton and Central Bedfordshire including the Town Council offices and at Houghton Regis library. In addition a number of public exhibitions have been arranged, for Houghton Regis these are being held at:

Bedford Square on Saturday 16th May from 10am to 3pm

Kingsland Campus on Thursday 21st May from noon until 8pm

The Core Strategy has sections on:

Accessibility & Transport – covering issues such as existing transport conditions, transport related challenges of new development, strategic transport infrastructure (including the Luton – Dunstable Busway, park & ride sites, Luton northern bypass, the Woodside Connection and M1 J10a improvements) and maximising opportunities for sustainable travel;

Providing New Homes – covering meeting the housing targets, delivering a constant supply of new housing, providing housing for all needs (including affordable housing, housing suitable for the elderly, infirm or disabled and gypsy and traveller accommodation sites);

Economic & Employment Needs – covering employment land provision and skills and entrepreneurship enhancement;

Building Communities – covering social and community infrastructure provision;

Improving the Town Centres – covering the enhancement of the existing town centres and future development within them;

Adapting to & Mitigating Climate Change – covering resource efficiency in existing and new developments, and mitigation of flood risk;

Green Infrastructure & Space – seeking to maintain, enhance and deliver new green infrastructure throughout the growth area;

Preserving & Enhancing our Countryside and Heritage – covering the protection, conservation and enhancement of the quality and character of the countryside and landscape, the promotion, preservation and enhancement of the heritage and townscape, and the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geological resources of Luton and southern Bedfordshire.

As stated this is the first document to be produced. Over the forthcoming months other documents will be produced and consulted upon such as Land Allocation and Gypsy and Travellers sites. Specifically in relation to these documents it is envisaged that the consultations will take place in December 2009, although this timing is to be confirmed during the summer.

As an interested individual or organisation you are strongly urged to review the Core Strategy and decide for yourself if you would like to make comment on any of the proposals put forward in the Strategy.

For your chance to have a say on what happens in Houghton Regis play an active part in the public consultations on the Local Development Framework. These will always be advertised through the local press and on the website

www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk