

14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## Arlesey Neighbourhood Plan starts to have an effect

Residents will be aware that there is a referendum on the Arlesey Neighbourhood Plan on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, but the Plan itself is already starting to have an effect on planning decisions at Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC).

At the CBC Development Management Committee (DMC) meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November, members considered the planning application for the bridge across the A507 that is being built as part of the Arlesey Cross development (**Ref. CB/17/02681/FULL**).

During the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, it was determined that the local residents were keen for this bridge to be a “green bridge” or at least sympathetic with its rural setting. This desire was articulated in the plan document (section 6.12, page 35) and cited the bridge over the A507 at Ridgmont as a good example.

Despite the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan is not yet adopted, it does carry weight in planning decisions given that it is very far advanced. Arlesey Town Council (ATC) quoted the Neighbourhood Plan in its objections to the design of the bridge that had been proposed by the developers. Cllr Chris Gravett presented ATC’s objections at the meeting and Arlesey Ward Councillor, Ian Dalgarno, also spoke in support of ATC’s position.

During the debate, the relevant sections of the Neighbourhood Plan were discussed and, ultimately, a vast majority of the members supported ATC’s objections and planning permission was duly refused. The developers must now redesign the bridge and take the content of the Neighbourhood Plan into account.

It is important to note that only a positive vote in the Neighbourhood Plan referendum on 30<sup>th</sup> November will support this decision and ensure that the document, and thereby the views of local residents, are taken into account when planning applications in Arlesey are considered in the future.

Further information on the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website ([www.arleseynp.org.uk](http://www.arleseynp.org.uk)), and the full version of the plan can be downloaded at the following link - <http://bit.ly/2yvUyMn>.

Ends.

Please direct any queries regarding this or any other Town Council matter to our Town Clerk, Susan Foulkes, either by email: [townclerk@arleseytc.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@arleseytc.co.uk) by telephone 01462 733722 or in writing to the Town Council Office, Arlesey Community Centre, High Street, Arlesey SG15 6SN.