



# Burton Latimer Parish Plan

## January 2016 update

### Background

Burton Latimer Parish Plan was developed in 2012, and was adopted by Kettering Borough Council's Planning Policy Committee on 5th November 2014. This means that our Parish Plan is now an informal Borough Council guidance document, and should help to influence planning policies and frameworks that affect our local community.

The Parish Plan is available from Burton Latimer Library and the Civic Centre. It can also be downloaded from the town's community website [www.burtonlatimer.org](http://www.burtonlatimer.org).

### Purpose of this document

This 2016 update provides a review of progress with the actions identified within each of the nine themes of the Parish Plan, and highlights new actions to be carried forward.

The nine themes are:

Housing	Traffic & transport	Safety & crime prevention
Education & employment	Amenities & services	Places of worship
The local environment	Leisure & recreation	Local government

### Housing

Kettering Borough Council has granted full planning approval for over 600 new homes in Burton Latimer, and these sites are currently being developed. In addition, outline approval has been granted for about 430 homes at various locations in the town, and an application to build a further 200 homes has been refused. Several of the new developments include affordable housing.

Planning approved / building underway		Outline planning permission granted		Planning permission refused	
Site	No.	Site	No.	Site	No.
Cranford Road	200	Bosworths Garden Centre *	80	Higham Road (South side)	200
Higham Road (North side)	270	Higham Road (North side) *	330		
Hogs Hollow (off Diana Way / Hawthorn Road *)	112	Finedon Road (East side)	21		
Finedon Road (East side)	38				
Kingfisher Way	47				
Total	667	Total	431	Total	200

\* Development includes affordable housing

Most of the new housing has been built on the south and south-east fringes of the town, in areas that have been identified as suitable for new development by local residents. The main exception to this is the Wheatfields development off Cranford Road – which was opposed by Burton Latimer Town Council, but approved on appeal (and after a Public Inquiry) by HM Inspector in 2008.

- Burton Latimer Action Group (BLAG) is no longer active. However, the town is still represented by local councillors and residents on the liaison forum that considers matters relating to the 5,000-home East Kettering development (now known as ‘Hanwood Park’)
- Burton Latimer Town Council has secured greater influence over the use of money received by Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council from housing developers (known as ‘section 106 monies’), to ensure that it benefits our town. To date, the main achievements have been in discussions with the county council to agree priorities for local highways improvements – including A6 modifications to improve road safety and the installation of better street-lighting – and to determine the line of a new sewer
- Burton Latimer Town Council successfully argued against land adjacent to the town’s allotments being considered as an option by Kettering Borough Council for potential Travellers’ sites across the borough

## Business & employment

- Plans for an industrial park on land adjacent to J10 of the A14 are being developed
- Further meetings between the town council and local businesses have been held
- The directory of local businesses has been updated annually
- A new banner advertising the town’s Farmers Market is displayed each month

## Education

- St Mary’s School has been extended
- New head teachers have been appointed at St Mary’s and Meadowside Primary Schools
- German and French classes continue to be offered at the Civic Centre – along with flower arranging classes

## The local environment

- A significant amount of open space has been incorporated into new housing developments
- The local public footpath network has been extended, and plans are in the pipeline for a new footpath around the perimeter of the Cranford Road housing development
- The Pocket Park has been extended, following the transfer of ownership of a parcel of land to Burton Latimer Town Council from Persimmon Homes.
- The town’s recycling facilities within the Churchill Way car park have been upgraded and moved to a more convenient location
- The conservation area has been extended to include High Street and the town’s ‘industrial core’
- More waste bins have been installed along routes most commonly used by dog walkers to reduce the amount of dog-fouling on pavements and footpaths
- Additional seats have been installed in public spaces around the town – including along Wold Road, within the cemetery, and next to the Millennium Garden
- Regular litter-picking has been carried out by the Community Payback Scheme in some of the worst-affected areas – including the Spinney, Wold Road, and the Polwell Lane footpath
- The Burton Wold Wind Farm has been extended to the North. Plans for solar panels covering three separate fields off Wold Road have been approved by Kettering Borough Council
- A number of energy saving schemes have been implemented:
  - old street lamps are being replaced by energy-efficient LEDs
  - the Civic Centre heating system has been upgraded
  - the town’s old Christmas lights have been replaced by LED bulbs – and the illuminations now draw their electricity directly from the street lighting circuits

## Traffic & transport

- Burton Latimer Town Council has agreed a list of priority work with the Highways Agency
- A direct bus service to Wellingborough has been established
- Two new bus shelters have been installed at stops within the town: near the medical centre in Higham Road; and outside the Britannia Club in High Street
- A number of streets have been resurfaced as part of an ongoing programme – including:
  - Whitney Road, Finedon Street and Miller Road (all off Finedon Road)
  - The Crescent, Elm Road and Woodland Drive (all off Spinney Road)
  - Hillcrest Avenue
- Several Grasscrete areas have been installed along Churchill Way to enable off-road parking for residents without damaging the grass verge
- Improved signage has virtually eliminated HGV traffic from the town centre
- New direction signs have been erected for the town's football ground and pocket park
- A new roundabout has been created at the Cranford Road / A6 junction
- The A6 Burton Latimer bypass has been designated a 'Red Route' due to the high number of accidents, and markings have been painted along the centre of the road to deter overtaking

## Safety & crime prevention

- Monthly statistics have shown a steady decrease in the amount of criminal activity in the town
- About ½ of the town's street lights have been upgraded – which has improved the effectiveness of CCTV
- New Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been established on the Wheatfields estate off Cranford Road and within the David Wilson Homes development off Higham Road
- Burton Latimer Town Council has decided that the Civic Centre space previously occupied by Burton Latimer Anti-social Behaviour team (BLAST) should be dedicated to the provision of Youth Services. Burton Latimer Youth Scheme (BLYS) is currently developing plans to offer these services on two days a week, and other options are currently being explored
- A skateboard ramp has been provided in the King George V recreation ground, and a youth shelter has been renovated and painted to provide more congenial recreational facilities for young people
- The no-alcohol zone within the town has been enforced more effectively

## Local amenities & services

- The town's Post Office has moved to a new location within the One Stop store in Churchill Way (two doors along from its previous location), with greatly extended opening hours
- Further refurbishment of the Civic Centre has been completed
- The public conveniences in the Churchill Way car park were closed in 2014. The search for alternative facilities continues, but no acceptable solution has yet been found
- A dropped kerb has been installed outside St Mary's church to facilitate disabled access
- The town's community website – *Burton Latimer online* – won a county-wide award in 2013

## Leisure & recreation

- Kettering Town Football Club now use the Burton Park Wanderers stadium in Polwell Lane as their home ground
- A children's play area has been incorporated within the Wheatfields housing development off Cranford Road, and a mini-football pitch is also planned for the estate
- The directory of local sports, teams, clubs and societies has been updated annually
- Consultants have been appointed to report on the requirements for sports facilities in Burton Latimer, and to recommend ways in which the identified needs could be met
- The Burton Latimer Swimming Pool Trust continues to provide funding for swimming lessons for local residents

## **Churches / places of worship**

- New ministers have been appointed at St Marys Church, Burton Latimer Baptist Church and Burton Latimer Methodist Church
- The local churches continue to support the local community through a wide range of weekly and monthly social activities, including:
  - Mid-week and Sunday church services
  - Daytime groups for mothers & young children
  - Afternoon, evening and weekend men's and ladies' groups
  - Youth groups
  - Coffee mornings
  - Events organised by the Friends of St Mary's

## **Local government**

- The two Burton Latimer wards (Plessey and Latimer) have been amalgamated, to form a single ward for the town
- Burton Latimer Town Council's quarterly newsletter *Burton Latimer News* has been discontinued. Facebook and Twitter accounts have been set up to disseminate information and generate feedback from local residents
- Burton Latimer Town Council's meetings and other activities continue to be highlighted on the town's community website – which won a county-wide award for excellence in 2013

# Action plan tracker / short term

## Actions we can take OURSELVES

- ⇒ Re-establish the local Chamber of Trade and Commerce, to provide a strong voice for locally-based businesses. ●
- ⇒ Use incentives (for instance, a rent-free period) to encourage more stall-holders to use the monthly farmers market, and run a new advertising campaign to attract more customers. ●
- ⇒ Develop the Civic Centre further as a venue for local educational activities. ●
- ⇒ Use the Community Payback scheme to help keep Burton Latimer tidy. ●
- ⇒ Promote the development of more local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. ●
- ⇒ Seek the views of younger people on leisure and recreation facilities. ●
- ⇒ Create a “welcome pack” that can be issued to new Burton Latimer residents. ●
- ⇒ Publish a map of local footpaths and walks. ●
- ⇒ Establish a regular open surgery at the Civic Centre, where town councillors are on hand to discuss local issues and address residents’ concerns. ●

## Actions that need input from OTHER AGENCIES

- ⇒ Seek greater influence over the use of money received by Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council from housing developers (known as ‘section 106 monies’), to ensure that it benefits our town. ●
- ⇒ Support High Street and local retail businesses by smartening up the High Street and Churchill Way – in line with proposals set out in the Urban Design Framework ●
- ⇒ Explore the potential for adult education courses being offered locally (for instance, using facilities at the Civic Centre) by neighbouring educational establishments – such as Tresham College, Moulton College, and the University of Northampton. ●
- ⇒ Provide a wider range of recycling facilities at more locations within the town – and ensure that recycling bins are emptied more frequently. ●
- ⇒ Continue the current highway resurfacing programme. ●
- ⇒ Create parking bays for the disabled in front of the Churchill Way shops. ●
- ⇒ Create a new footpath route on the eastern side of the town – to be called the Jubilee Walk. ●
- ⇒ Identify footpaths that can be upgraded to bridleways. ●
- ⇒ Ensure all major bus stops in the town have shelters. ●
- ⇒ Review the provision of public WC facilities within the town. ●

Key: ● No / minimal progress    ● Some progress    ● Great progress / completed

# Action plan tracker / longer term

Actions we can take OURSELVES	Status
⇒ No actions identified	
Actions that need input from OTHER AGENCIES	Status
⇒ As the population of Burton Latimer grows, expand schooling in the town to provide education for local children through to the age of 18 years.	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
⇒ Protect Church Street from any extra traffic that may result from possible future changes to junction 10 (or the creation of a new junction 10a) of the A14.	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
⇒ Press for a roundabout at the A6 / Higham Road junction if the town expands further in this area.	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
⇒ Encourage the installation of modern, directional, white street-lighting – which will make CCTV more effective.	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
⇒ Create a dedicated youth centre within the Civic Centre.	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
⇒ Take forward proposals for improving the town centre, as set out in the Urban Design Framework.	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
⇒ Press for a sports and leisure facility to be included in any plans for a new school building within the town – for use by local residents outside school hours.	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>

Key: ● No / minimal progress    ● Some progress    ● Great progress / completed

## New actions identified

Actions we can take OURSELVES	Actions that need input from OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Transfer ownership of the balance of Pocket Park land to BLTC from A P Lewis.</li> <li>⇒ Ensure that a town councillor is always available at the monthly farmers market to discuss local residents' issues and concerns.</li> <li>⇒ Replace the rotten wooden retaining wall alongside the allotments with a new wall consisting of rock filled wire cages (gabions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Straighten-out bends on Finedon Station Road to eliminate the need for HGVs to travel along Higham Road and Finedon Road.</li> <li>⇒ Design and implement further highway modifications to improve traffic flow along High Street.</li> </ul>