

# 2017 - 2021



## BEACONSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL TOWN PLAN



# INTRODUCTION

This is Beaconsfield Town Council's Town Plan for 2017-2021. It sets out the Council's broad aims and priorities for the coming five years. The Plan acknowledges that, whilst the Council is directly responsible for certain activities and services, there are many areas where it can only seek to influence and work with others.

In the preparation of this Plan, the Overview Document of the "Vision for Beaconsfield" (V4B) Appraisal has been taken into account. Whilst some issues are ones which the Council can influence or take action upon, other items, whilst worthwhile, can only be aspirations and will be beyond the scope of the Council's remit.

In order to seek the views of the wider population of Beaconsfield, a "Vision for Beaconsfield" Appraisal Exercise was carried out in late 2014 and early 2015, following the guidelines laid out by the then Leader of the Town Council, Alan Walters and Councillor Sandy Saunders who chaired the previous Parish Appraisal in 2009. The findings of the V4B Steering Group were summarised and are attached to this Town Plan.

It is hoped that in due course, the Plan will form part of a broader community planning structure reflecting the aims and ambitions of all those with a stake in the Beaconsfield Community.

When this version of the Town Plan has been formally adopted, it will be used to help the Town Council to decide priorities in the delivery and quality of the services that it provides. It will also provide a framework within which the council will set a budget for 2018 and subsequent years.

The Town Plan will be reviewed annually or within three months of any changes within local Government structure. At its second meeting after the summer recess, the Town Council/Planning Committee/Resources Committee will include an Agenda item to examine the Town Plan, select priorities for action and develop appropriate action plan(s).

The Leader of the Town Council will report on progress at the Annual Town Meeting.

*\*Acknowledgement is duly made to Mr Douglas Butterfield who acted as Chairman and the Members of the Vision for Beaconsfield Steering Group for their considerable efforts in contributing to the Beaconsfield Parish Appraisal.*

# FUNDAMENTAL AIMS

- 1** To preserve and/or enhance the character and environment of Beaconsfield. Seek to influence the policies of Bucks County Council and South Bucks District Council and adjacent communities which affect Beaconsfield.
- 2** To actively work with the Beaconsfield community in the Town Council's policy making. Maintaining and enhancing two-way communication with local organisations both official and voluntary and with the population as a whole. Aim to enlarge the profile of the Town Council through effective communications both via print and technology.
- 3** To maintain the Town's commercial centres by encouraging retail quality and variety, and seek to improve facilities for the Town. Specifically to address where possible parking issues to the benefit of residents, schools and commuters
- 4** To retain and manage the Town Council's assets as efficiently as possible maximising their benefit and access to the local community.



# SPECIFIC AIMS

## 1 PRESERVING AND/OR ENHANCING THE TOWN'S CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENT

- 1.1 Increase our influence with the County and District Councils and other organisations whose activities impact on the life of the Town including NHS, Thames Valley Police, Fire and Rescue.  
Responsibility: **Town Council**
- 1.2 Consult the public on major issues affecting the Town to ensure that their views are taken into account. Responsibility: **Town Council**
- 1.3 Promote a more selective and constructive approach to town planning; linking residential, commercial and transport considerations. Develop the intention to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible.  
Responsibility: **Planning Committee**
- 1.4 Ensure the protection and preservation of environment throughout the Town:-
- a) Formulate and make all appropriate representations and take other necessary actions to influence proposed development of major sites in or near to Beaconsfield.
  - b) Defend marginal green belt and green space sites in the Town. Specifically proposals to release green belt linked to the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan and Wilton Park
  - c) Support the planned Eastern Relief Road subject to robust modelling in relation to future density and capacity needs.  
Responsibility: **Planning Committee**
- 1.5 Ensure the protection and preservation of trees throughout the Town subject to pavement damage by:-
- a) Retaining, replacing and planting additional trees within the constraints of the County Council's Highways Trees Policy.
  - b) Resisting the lifting of specific Tree Preservation Orders other than for good reason

c) Working with other bodies with relevant experience.

Responsibility: **Planning Committee**

1.6

Support the District recycling initiatives whilst insisting on comprehensive and timely waste control and cleaning operations for the town.

Responsibility: **Planning Committee**



1.7

Promote the public enjoyment of and continue to maintain and enhance all public open spaces in the Town Council's care.

a) Working with neighbouring owners, including the County Council, the District Council, conservation groups and other agencies where appropriate and entering into appropriate agreements.

b) By promoting such partnership and initiatives between all local community groups to work together in keeping public open spaces, including lay-bys, free from litter, dog fouling, etc. (OS & CS)

c) Publicising their existence through the Town Guide, website and elsewhere and providing appropriate signage to them. Note: Specifically Walkwood and One Tree Meadow

d) Encouraging residents to keep their boundary hedges from obstructing pavements and footpaths

e) Ensure that BCC regularly review, produce and publish a public rights of way map within the Beaconsfield boundary.

Responsibility: **Open Spaces and Community Safety Committees**

1.8 Work to secure improvements to road safety and the traffic situation in the Town by:-

- a) Seeking to influence Bucks County Council's policies and practices.
- b) Continuing to press Bucks County Council to implement the recommendations from the refresh of its 2001 transportation study. In the event of a change to a unitary authority to petition the new authority to redo the study
- c) Pressing the County Council that our footpaths, pavements and rights of way be maintained and made as safe as possible with adequate lighting where appropriate.
- d) Promoting and encouraging proposals for "Safer Routes to Schools" including additional pedestrian crossings. (Ref. Overview - Item 3.5.6). Note: Specifically at Holtspur close to Harvester and A40.
- e) Encouraging the work of the Police in monitoring speeding and blackspots (PL and CS).

Responsibility: **Planning Committee and Community Safety Committees**



1.9 Continue to encourage cycling and walking where practicable in the Town by:-

- a) Maintaining adequate and secure, cycle storage facilities.
- b) Promoting and encouraging cycling and walking as alternative "modes of travel". Responsibility: **Community Safety Committee**

## 2

### FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

#### 2.1

Encourage the involvement of young people in the life of the community and, where practical and where funds permit, provide further recreational and other facilities. e.g. Community Cinema

a) Liaising with existing youth facilities to enhance their existing operation and promote additional youth facilities

Responsibility: **Town Council**



#### 2.2

Continue to improve the play, sporting and recreation areas owned by the Town Council by:-

a) Updating, maintaining and enlarging facilities for all age groups.

b) Supporting appropriate initiatives to enhance the Beaconsfield Tennis Centre situated at the Oval.

c) Reviewing the present and future usage and security of Wooburn Green Lane Sports Field in order to maximise the benefit to the public.

*Aim to enhance changing room facilities*

Responsibility: **Open Spaces Committee**



- 2.3 Support and encourage appropriate Community events including the Annual Festival of Lights, Annual Fireworks Display, Awareness Day, Christmas Lights, Country Fair, Twinning activities, etc.

Responsibility: **Open Spaces Committee**

- 2.4 Continue to promote the provision of further recreational and other facilities for young people by:-

a) Supporting appropriate proposals from voluntary groups.

b) Providing, alone or in partnership with others, suitable facilities, e.g. youth shelter, theatre.      Responsibility: **Open Spaces Committee**

- 2.5 Continue to provide information for visitors and residents by:-

a) Continuing to produce and provide annually a free updated Town Guide .

b) Continuing to develop and support a website.

c) Aiming to produce and provide a free newsletter to every household at least twice per year. This new initiative will seek to encourage matched funding from local businesses. (see 3.5)

Responsibility: **Resources and Community Safety Committees**

### 3 ENHANCING and REVITALISING THE TOWN

3.1 Involve the entire Community in the Town Council's policy making by:-

- a) Maintaining the Parish Appraisal and planning process.
- b) Requesting the Appointment of suitable Town Councillors as representatives to community groups.
- c) Inviting ideas for action whenever practicable.

Responsibility: **Town Council**

3.2 Encourage residents and visitors to Beaconsfield to use the three commercial centres by:-

- a) Maintaining the new pedestrian signage throughout the Town.
- b) Promoting the provision of adequate public conveniences (Ref. Item 3.6.2). This is an essential aspect of visitor promotion
- c) Lobbying BCC and SBDC to ensure that streets and pavements are well maintained, kept clean, free of litter, and clear of tree roots to protect those using wheelchairs and buggies .

Responsibility: **Town Council**

3.3 Address the problems of car parking within different parts of the Town through the re-established Parking Working Group. Work with BCC and SBDC as necessary:-

- a) Seeking to ensure that adequate off street car parking is retained and provided for shoppers and those working locally.
- b) Continuing to investigate the feasibility of developing a sustainable hopper bus service, identifying partners, operators and sources of funding.
- c) Liaising with all interested parties to alleviate the parking problems in the Old Town.

Responsibility: **Community Safety**

3.4 Commitment to improve green spaces, play areas and local environment including planting more flowers and plants and supporting an orchard in Holtspur Park. (with cost effective measures to control scrumping)  
Consider entry for Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village/Small Town in 2020.  
Responsibility: **Open Spaces Committee**

3.5 Support the Local Business Community by:-

a) Consulting with local business on major issues. e.g. Provision of Christmas Lights

b) Appointing Councillors to liaise with the business community through a “Business Liaison Working Group” leading to a new “Chamber of Trade”

c) Supporting further work on the development of a “Think local, Buy Local” Strategy

d) Supporting further work on those recommendations of the V4B Local Economy and Tourism Working Group not already assigned to other committees. Specifically distinguish between Tourism and Visitors

Responsibility: **Resources Committee**



## 4 FINANCIAL CONTROLS & FISCAL POLICY

- 4.1 Exercise prudent fiscal control by :-
- a) Maintaining a regular review of expenditure, income and reserves.
  - b) Regularly reviewing and investing the Council's surplus cash.
  - c) Ensuring that we obtain best value for all the Council's purchasing contracts.                      Responsibility: **Resources Committee**
- 4.2 Retain the freehold of all Council owned land except where it is a benefit to the local Community to dispose of land. Consider possible acquisition of the library by the local community  
Responsibility: **Town Council**
- 4.3 Review with SBDC, the owners of the Town Hall, any potential opportunity to make better use of the building for the benefit of the Town and its residents.  
Responsibility: **Resources Committee**
- 4.4 Encourage the use of the Council Chamber for weddings, meetings, exhibitions and other uses.                      Responsibility: **Resources Committee**



<b>BEACONSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL TOWN PLAN</b>		
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