

THE FRIENDS OF THE BIDDENHAM VILLAGE POND

1 March 2018

Addendum to the response to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035

Further comments

The Friends submit this addendum to their response dated 23 February 2018 to the proposed Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035 with our further comments in support of **our objection to policy 19 Land at Gold Lane, Biddenham, and our reasons for asking for that policy to be removed from the Local Plan.**

If development were to be allowed on the land at Gold Lane there is every reason to believe it would be the not very thin end of a wedge that **would inevitably lead to Biddenham and surrounding communities becoming progressively merged in an urban sprawl.**

We know that new houses need to be built for the growing population and for our children as they seek their own first homes. Our objection to any change of policy that would allow development on this land, and our objection already made to planning application 18/00140/MAO, is not Nimbyism. There are plenty of more sustainable and brown field sites in the Borough which should be prioritised.

But more than that it's a fact that the parish of Biddenham has already made in recent times and is still making an enormous contribution to the provision of new houses, probably more than its fair share: think of the Biddenham Turn estate, Deep Spinney, Great Denham now hived off but still building, and the western end of King's Field, still building. **Great swathes of open space have been lost, and are gone forever: little precious open space is left.** If any open space is to remain not concreted over, building cannot continue unchecked.

Given its significance and substance we reiterate here **the fact also that development here would destroy forever** views that reflect the historic rural character of the village, in particular **the views that are seen most often by most people,** those from the A4280, Deep Spinney and Gold Lane, views across the valley of the River Great Ouse to the green and wooded wolds beyond, and of the stone tower of the village's St James Church, of Saxon origin: **views that define the function, character and identity of the village of Biddenham.**

There is no need to build and every reason not to build on this precious remaining open space. We must protect and conserve what little remains today of Biddenham's natural environment and the wide ranging benefits derived from it for the health and wellbeing of this and future generations.

Submitted by:

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