



Great Linford Parish Council
PLEDGES

- 1.1 During the public consultations undertaken as part of the development of the Neighbourhood Development Plans, Great Linford Parish Council have recognised some points raised by the local community cannot be incorporated in 'planning policy'. Therefore, a number of commitments (Pledges) were drawn up in parallel with the Plans which the Parish Council considers are appropriate and deliverable and accords with the overall vision, aspirations and objectives of the Parish Council.
- 1.2 Originally, and all through the consultation process, these have been included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan documents so that not only could the community see that they had not been forgotten, but that they could be seen in context, in parallel with actual Planning policies.
- 1.3 Once the Plans reached the final stages, and as the Pledges are not matters of planning policy, they have been removed from the Plans and recorded here.
- 1.4 We are committed to furthering these Pledges subject to the availability of resources and capacity. These are shown in below:

1.5 Housing

GLPC Pledge 1

In regard to new development the Parish Council will make an assessment of the development against the 'Building for Life' Assessment criteria and any other appropriate guidance that is recognised as good practice.

1.5.1 The parish benefits from close proximity to Willen Lake and Campbell Park which are strategic assets for Milton Keynes. It is important to ensure that any proposals for change do not adversely affect residents within the parish.

GLPC Pledge 2

In regard to new development adjacent to the parish boundary that potentially impacts on the parish, the Parish Council will ensure that it makes appropriate representations to Milton Keynes Council (or other decision making body where the decision is not Milton Keynes Council e.g. The Planning Inspectorate) in respect of planning applications or policy proposals to ensure that the comments submitted are taken into account. This includes representations on the need for essential infrastructure required within the parish area to mitigate the potential harm of the development or the potential loss of facilities such as open space, food retail (convenience goods), employment facilities and community facilities.

1.6 Sports and Leisure

GLPC Pledge 3

The Parish Council will work with relevant partners and organisations to:

1. Improve the quality and availability of community facilities and meeting places.
2. Provide additional facilities such as indoor facilities for tennis, badminton, basketball and other indoor sports and leisure activities.
3. Development of community meeting places at local centres and provision of more leisure activity facilities for older age groups.

1.7 Wellbeing and Open Spaces

- 1.7.1 Trees and hedgerows form an important feature as part of the character of some areas, including the street scene. Apart from this amenity value and generally improving health and wellbeing they also support biodiversity in providing attractive shade/shelter and sources of food. Large developments can often incorporate tree planting schemes but smaller developments may be limited. In all cases the appropriate tree species relevant to its local environment in terms of its potential size, rate of growth proximity to buildings, footpaths and roads will need to be carefully considered.

GLPC Pledge 4

The Parish Council do not have the legal authority to make Tree Preservation Orders as this responsibility is with Milton Keynes Council. However, where a tree or trees of significant amenity value are potentially threatened, the Parish Council will formally request Milton Keynes Council to make a Tree Preservation Order(s).

- 1.7.2 It is important that landscaped areas and open space is maintained to an adequate standard. Where new development is proposed landscaping will generally be dealt with in the development proposal. However, existing areas should be maintained to an acceptable standard.

GLPC Pledge 5

The Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that all significant areas of open space within the area are maintained.

1.8 Getting around

- 1.8.1 Many of the comments raised through the public consultation cannot be dealt with by planning policy. Matters that can be included relate to the impact of new developments include parking, access and transport. Where there are existing deficiencies the Parish Council will work with partner organisations to seek improvement.

GLPC Pledge 6

The Parish Council will work with relevant partners to seek:

- 1. Appropriate measures are taken to reduce traffic speed limits, parking and 'rat running', through existing developments particularly adjacent to existing schools and through housing estates.**
- 2. Reduction in congestion at identified trouble spots.**
- 3. Improvement of bus services.**
- 4. Repairs and maintenance to the highways, 'redways', footpaths, bridleways, canal towpath and other public areas.**
- 5. Improvements to signage particularly in relation to 'redways'.**

1.9 Business Opportunities & Employment

- 1.9.1 Other matters of concern or suggestions raised during the consultation which are not planning policy matters but are considered to be important to the local community are covered in the following pledge:

GLPC Pledge 7

The Parish Council will:

- a) Advertise local employment opportunities on the Parish Council website
- b) Work with local companies to open doors for youth employment experience and opportunities
- c) Run features on the Parish Council website and in the parish magazine to promote local enterprise

1.10 Education and Personal Development

- 1.10.1 Most of the comments received relate to facilities and overlong journeys to school. These are not matters that could be included in planning policy although encouraging and supporting new development proposals which will provide a location for such facilities can be. However, as there appears to be an identified shortage of such facilities there does not need to be a specific policy.

- 1.10.2 The main comments received in the consultation can be dealt with by a further pledge:

GLPC Pledge 8

The Parish Council will work with relevant partners to ensure that:

1. Facilities for adult training and learning new skills to benefit the local community are improved
2. Opportunities to encourage provision of local training for adult learning and new skills are sought

1.11 Heritage and Arts

- 1.11.1 The Parish Council will consider whether there are any modern buildings that are worthy of listing if they have played a significant part in the development of Milton Keynes new town and particularly if they are threatened by new development. This includes any buildings or features within the plan area but also within Central Milton Keynes and the Willen area which border the southern part of the parish and may have an impact on the parish.

GLPC Pledge 9

The Parish Council will identify on a regular basis, any building(s) that it considers Milton Keynes Council and English Heritage should include within the list of Buildings of Historic or Architectural Interest (listed buildings). The Parish Council will also respond and have them added to the local list if there is a potential threat to significant modern buildings that form part of the history of Milton Keynes as a new town.

- 1.11.2 Although it is considered that there are good facilities within the parish at the Arts Centre at Great Linford, art in public spaces could be improved. There are current Parish Council projects in hand including the Gyosei Arts Trail but other opportunities should be taken to showcase art such as at roundabouts.

GLPC Pledge 10

The Parish Council will seek opportunities to provide art at strategic points within the plan area either directly as projects or as part of developer contributions.

1.12 Shops and Services

- 1.12.1 Quality shop fronts, other commercial frontages and signs are important as they affect the character and appearance of the area. Proposals to replace these, need to take account such things as their design and materials as well as any illumination to ensure that they enhance the area in terms of over appearance and public safety.

GLPC Pledge 11

The Parish Council will make representations to Milton Keynes Council on any proposals within Central Milton Keynes which are likely to result in the loss of food retail premises (convenience goods) that is likely to negatively impact on residents within the plan area that use these facilities.

1.13 Community Right to Bid

GLPC Pledge 12

Where the Parish Council becomes aware of any opportunity to acquire land or buildings in the interest of the local community where that asset is under threat of being lost it will positively consider exercising using the rights under the Localism Act, (The Community Right to Bid, Assets of Community Value legislation).