

# **It's Over To You**

A Neighbourhood Plan for Bookham

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# Bookham Surrey

- Mole Valley, Surrey
- Population of about 11,500, 37% over 55y
- Generally affluent population, 80% homes owner-occupied
- Vibrant High Street, Independent Retailers
- Strong Community Spirit
- “.....most residents believe that Bookham is a nice place; Bookham is a safe place; Bookham is a desirable place to live: residents would generally like Bookham to stay much the way it is.”

# Bookham and MVDC

Positive engagement with community via;

- LDF Core Strategy
- Land Allocations DPD - SHLAA
- Built-Up Area Character Assessment
- Conservation Area Review
- Residents' Association representations on development control applications

# Bookham Vision

- Community Exercise involving 150+ volunteers
- Householders' Questionnaire with 68% return rate
- Residents' views on a range of topics
- [www.bookhamvision.org](http://www.bookhamvision.org)
- ".....it must be acknowledged that change, to some degree is unavoidable. As residents who want the best for our village we must try to shape that change: preserving what is best about our way of life here while moving forward and embracing the future"  
Bookham Vision, October 2010.

# Bookham Vanguard

- Bid to Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners scheme
- Bookham chosen to be in Second Wave
- Community meetings had backed bid
- Initial Start-up group to initiate exercise
- Plan to have Forum in place by October 2011
- Task Group to gather evidence

# Issues to address

- Housing Development and mix
- Affordable/Social Housing
- Retail provision
- Green Belt
- Green Space
- Infrastructure
- Safeguarding the unique village character and environment

# So Far So Good

- Community driven – minimal Councillor involvement
- Community beginning to appreciate need for new development
- Plenty of Interest, Energy and Enthusiasm
- Great working relationship with MVDC Planning Policy Team
- Networking with other Second-Wavers

# Hurdles to Overcome

- Raising Awareness
- Manpower
- Usual Suspects
- Cynicism – what will it deliver?
- Will it do more for Bookham than MVDC would have done?
- Money
- Referendum



# What Will it Look Like?

- Plan will form part of the LDF
  - Land Allocations Document for Bookham
  - Holistic approach - allocate land and set out policies to steer development
  - Simple or Complicated
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- “We only see our own vulnerability to change, but we need to seize this opportunity for enhancement” Bookham Resident, February 2011.