

## **Growing Baldock Advisory Forum, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

### **Attendees:**

Cllr Emma Rowe  
Cllr Stewart Willoughby  
Cllr Rhona Cameron  
Colin Wing  
Ed Hutchings  
Kelly Nichol  
Kitty Eyre  
Michael Bingham  
Philippa Curran  
Rebecca Britton  
Shawn Nudd

### **1. Outline Planning Application Update - U&C**

U&C outlined progress on the outline planning application, submitted to North Herts Council for consideration in October 2025 - the council's statutory consultation period has now ended and responses from the vast majority of stakeholders received.

The transport model findings are in the process of being independently tested using the County Council's strategic transport model (COMET) and the findings will be shared in the coming months.

A clarification report (called a Regulation 25) is being prepared by U&C and will be submitted to North Herts Council in the next few weeks. The report will include additional information and explanation on aspects of the planning application, including responding to comments on transport.

Work undertaken locally by the team since the last meeting of the Advisory Forum in September 2025, includes outreach with businesses along the high street, letters to all businesses in Baldock, attendance at two Baldock & villages Community Forums, website and mailing list updates, and meetings with key stakeholders, such as Knights Templar school.

### **2. Baldock Update – All**

In terms of feedback from the group, it was felt there was a general acceptance of the scheme locally, with good awareness of the proposals. It was considered important however to consider newer residents who may be less familiar with Growing Baldock, and vary consultation methods in the future to maximise awareness and avoid opportunities for misinformation, including on social media.

Specific suggestions included undertaking dedicated engagement with young people, particularly given the long-term nature of the proposals.

Digital exclusion was also raised, and the potential to use the library as a location for hard copy information and U&C are liaising with Cllr Emma Rowe to agree the approach.

There was a keenness to discuss early years' childcare given previously raised concerns about overprovision of nurseries in the future – U&C will organise a separate session.

A discussion on transport, including reiterating support for restricting the left turn into Station Road from Whitehorse Street. The importance of the ongoing consideration of access for residents from Bygrave and Ashwell villages to Baldock high street/ station was also raised, as was whether Bygrave Road was capable of dealing with additional traffic.

The closure of Baldock Road was also mentioned - U&C confirmed Baldock Road wouldn't be closed until a new bridge is opened and the new link road through BA1 is provided.

There was a discussion around adoption of new roads in the scheme - U&C confirmed the aspiration is always to design to adoptable standards.

Secondary school provision was raised in the context of the latest information from Hertfordshire County Council (Nov 2025) which highlighted that the demographic landscape in Hertfordshire and nationally had changed and specifically that birth rates have fallen significantly.

The importance of long-term planning given the cyclical nature of population, noting the number of children could increase particularly given an increase in family housing, was mentioned.

The impact of congestion around Knights Templar School was discussed given the recent poor weather and increase in traffic as a result. U&C noted all 3 school scenarios had been tested in the COMET model and the results would be shared.

The impact on Weston Way and Park Street residents also raised in the context of a new school.

Pleased the Ramblers and allotment society had been engaged with, having recently met with the U&C team.

The Design Code was raised as a means of ensuring the quality of design can be secured by housebuilders.

The erosion of the gap with Lower Bygrave a concern – U&C talked about the sensitive approach proposed in this area e.g. lighting.

### **3. Feedback to date on OPA submission - U&C**

Key topics, in order of mention by members of the community:

- Addressing traffic impact (around half of objections mention this)
- Importance of supporting infrastructure
- Impact on the town
- Wildlife/ greenspace
- More detail needed
- Train station capacity including car parking
- Access to Baldock from the villages

#### **4. Focus for 2026 onwards – All**

It was agreed to make this the focus of the next meeting – looking at opportunities/ events/ initiatives/ areas of focus.

U&C also asked the group to consider a business representative for the group – suggestions welcome.