

Growing Baldock Advisory Forum – meeting note

22 September 2026

Agenda

1. Planning and next steps
2. Scope of Advisory Forum during 2027
3. Community initiatives
4. Actions and next meeting

The Growing Baldock Advisory Forum met online to discuss the latest position on the proposals. The discussion covered the planning process, education, affordable housing, sports provision and the next stages of engagement.

Planning and next steps - Members discussed the next stages following the Outline Planning Application. It was agreed that a more detailed timeline would be prepared and shared with the Forum ahead of the next meeting, to support further discussion about priorities for 2027.

There was also discussion about the emerging Local Plan and how this relates to Growing Baldock.

Education and skills - Members raised the need for clarity about the future provision of schools and the timing of decisions. The Forum also discussed opportunities around sponsored apprenticeships and skills as the development progresses.

Affordable housing - Questions were raised about the proposed level and definition of affordable housing, including how viability has influenced the level currently proposed.

Sports provision and Eastern Park – Some members were concerned about the proposed sports provision at Eastern Park, questioning the type and scale of facilities, their location and whether there was sufficient demand. They felt that sports facilities provided as part of future secondary school provision would be more appropriate and could also benefit the wider community.

Members also discussed the landscape and setting of Eastern Park and connections with existing green infrastructure.

It was agreed that opportunities would be explored for further discussion between community representatives and Sport England about the approach to sports provision.

Town centre - The Forum discussed opportunities to support Baldock town centre as the proposals progress, including the role that local management and partnership working could play.

Actions

- Prepare and share a more detailed timeline for the stages following the Outline Planning Application, ahead of the next Forum meeting.
- Explore opportunities for community representatives to discuss sports provision with Sport England.
- Continue discussions on education, skills, affordable housing, sports provision and the Forum's priorities for 2027 at future meetings.