Toddington Parish Council’s representation to Central Bedfordshire Draft Local Plan Consultation

The view of Toddington Parish Council (TPC) is that our objection is to all sites identified for assessment during Stage 2 on the basis that the existing amenities and infrastructure could not cope with any increase at this time.

Neighbourhood Plan
Toddington Parish Council have invested a great deal of time and effort in seeking the views of the community in the development of its Neighbourhood Plan (NHP). Significant time, effort and resource has been invested in the development of this plan to shape the future of the community and have a positive impact.

Specifically, in relation to the housing needs, the NHP Steering Group went to great lengths in consulting and surveying the community to understand, identify and capture their views and needs. This has been shared in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (DNHP).

We also acknowledge that the DNHP stated that we would not support a single development that exceeded 30 units and we also acknowledge that one of the sites assessed (NLP152) is less than this number.

Parking
The DNHP identified significant parking issues within the village and identified specifically significant issues within the Village Centre. The DNHP wrongly identified a solution of the Village Hall site for public parking. The Village Hall parking spaces remain private property with permitted parking at certain times. The Toddington Village Hall Association have recently communicated this reminder to the community.

Parking during relevant schools time have also resulted in repeated attendance by Bedfordshire Police resources. Any growth will only exacerbate this too.

Public Transport
There have been a reduction in services to and from the village. Bus services have been reduced to such an extent that it makes it almost impossible to commute in and out of the village to both Harlington (train station) and also larger towns such as Luton, Dunstable, Milton Keynes and Bedford. The bus service has reduced to one bus per hour during its most frequent time.

**Schools**

We (TPC) are also aware that the lower school has expressed its concern over its ability to take more pupils.

The findings of the Stage 1 site assessments also found in all of the cases in the Toddington area that:

> ‘Although Toddington is considered a sustainable village in terms of its facilities and services, any further development would require contributions to education provision.’

**Site specific comments**

**NLP184**

Specifically in relation to NLP184 it is clear that they are reliant on further sites being released for development and therefore this cannot be assessed for suitability at this time.

**Conclusion**

Toddington Parish Council want to be clear that we are appointed to our positions to have the best interests of the community at the forefront of any decision. We feel at this time that any increase of any scale would have a detrimental impact on the community and its residents. We object to all of the six sites being considered in Stage 2 (NLP086, NLP152, NLP153, NLP378, NLP405 & NLP411).