

What is MACKPlan and what will it do?

MACKPlan will be the neighbourhood development plan for the area of Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council and Kelly Parish Meeting. Its purpose is to give local people greater control over what kind of development takes place in their area, where it is and what it looks like.

It can do that because the Borough Council will, by law, have to take MACKPlan into account when making decisions on planning applications. Because it has legal status, there are rules governing how the plan is produced and what it can cover.

- It must reflect relevant national and local planning policies and must contain at least the minimum amount of housing development specified in the Borough Council's Local Plan.
- It must be based on what local people want and be approved by them in a referendum.
- It does focus on development issues, but it is also concerned with maintaining successful, sustainable communities and protecting and enhancing the special character of the area covered by the plan.

The MACKPlan team will be preparing a survey and questionnaire to be sent to every household in the plan area. We need to make that as relevant as possible and are therefore seeking your views on what it should contain.

A typical neighbourhood development plan might include:

- Provision for new housing development, including affordable housing, and for bringing derelict properties back into use.
- Provision for local businesses to start up in the area or expand existing premises
- Issues about transport, such as traffic, cycling and walking.
- Issues regarding community facilities like village halls and pubs.
- Ideas about how to increase the local production of renewable energy.
- The protection of historic buildings and other assets, such as archaeological remains, as well as their settings.
- Protecting the natural environment and the local landscape.
- The design and location of new development.

In considering these and any other issues that you may feel are relevant, it may help to ask the following questions:

- What do we have now that is worth protecting and enhancing?

- What do we have now that either needs improving or removing?
- What haven't we got, that we should try and obtain?

Because MACKPlan will have a legal status, it cannot just be a wish list. It must be specific and it must focus on development and issues arising from it, such as its impact on the environment. However, there will be issues that are important to local people that are not associated with development, but should be progressed outside the plan. They will be recorded in a separate section of the plan, the agencies responsible for dealing with them will be identified and a process set up to monitor progress in their resolution.

This is a real opportunity to take control over development in our area and to influence other important issues. The alternative is to let those decisions be taken by others.