



## Summary of the Involvement of Parish Councils in the Planning Process following updates by Buckinghamshire Council

Parish and Town Councils are statutory consultees in the process of considering planning applications. Hughenden Parish Council is not required to comment on every application but where it does we raise issues for the attention of Buckinghamshire Council Officers, that are focused on **material** planning considerations.

We are not required to have the knowledge to quote specific policies or references, highlighting the issue to the Bucks Council Planning Officer will enable them to apply the right reference.

The power to determine Planning Applications rests with either the relevant Buckinghamshire Council Area Committee (of which there are 5) or the Strategic Sites Committee. 96% of applications, in line with best practice, are determined under delegated authority by the Senior Planning Officers and Chair of the Planning Committee.

The purpose of a Buckinghamshire Council Planning Committee is to review recommendations where the weighing and balancing of issues is considered to be finely balanced.

The Buckinghamshire Council Strategic Sites Committee has responsibility for Wider strategic development, sites which have a significant impact beyond the specific local area or sites which are fundamental to the implementation of an adopted or emerging local Plan. As examples these include major infrastructure projects, large scale developments such as building 400 new homes, an employment opportunity occupying space of 1000 sq meters or 2 hectares or more or retail opportunities of the same size.

The Area Planning Committees have responsibility for determining those planning Applications which have been called in or referred to committee for decision but do not fall within the remit of Strategic Sites Committee.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, Town and Parish Councils have the power to “Call in” applications to committee. The request must be based on material reasons and the Parish Council must commit to attend and speak at the meeting.



The decision to accept our application to call an application in will be determined by Buckinghamshire Council.

Mel Woof  
Clerk to Hughenden Parish Council  
21 July 2021