



## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FOR THE BERNARDS HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD, ST ALBANS**

St Albans District Council has failed to produce a District Development Plan to date. This leaves each neighbourhood in the District in a vacuum when faced with major planning or development issues.

The Friends of Bernards Heath (FoBH) (the amenity society for Bernards Heath) do not have the resources to produce a full Neighbourhood Plan to the required standards to make good the District Council's defect here, but we do want to share our views with our local community, the District Council and any potential developers.

What we would like to see for our neighbourhood is based on the planning brief broadly accepted by all relevant parties in 2001 after the "Village Green" Planning Inquiry. The main elements would be:

- Maintenance of the conservation areas and of the registered commons,
- In-fill development only in line with District Council guidelines,
- Retaining the existing community facilities and as much as possible of the open space on the "Ariston Site",
- Using the footprint of redundant buildings on the rest of the Ariston Site for affordable housing, and
- Improving access to and presentation of the open spaces in the neighbourhood – and especially the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Beech Dyke Bottom.

We believe that this is a realistic and proportionate plan and one which also meets other District Council objectives on matters such as housing, leisure, heritage, health, reducing carbon footprint and biodiversity.

13<sup>th</sup> April 2013