

### North Dunstable By Pass

The public consultation for the Dunstable Northern By Pass has now passed. The Parish Council have submitted their response as well as our own individual responses to the Highways Agency.

The Council have accepted most of what the Highways Agency is looking to do, with a few exceptions. The main one is the lack of access for the village to the By Pass and the M1 via the proposed Junction 11a.

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) contacted the Council as they too were concerned and wished to make sure that their response was not in conflict with us. Thurstan Adburgham, the Area Representative of CPRE Bedfordshire came to our last Parish Council meeting in February.

He had come up with an option to allow access to the By Pass and then in turn, the M1. We then held a further meeting with Jim Tombe of Central Bedfordshire Council and Thurstan and found that they too have an option that will give us links to the By Pass and M1. This is dependant on a number of issues so it is not straightforward.

The scheme hinges around the Woodside link. This is a proposed road that connects the Woodside Industrial Estate in Houghton Regis with the By Pass, near to the M1 Junction 11a. Luton Road would then connect to the Woodside link away from the junction with the By Pass, just to make the access uncluttered. Then once on the Woodside Link, you would have access to the By Pass and the M1.

The Woodside link is a proposal that would go east from the roundabouts at the Woodside entrance, then go north and run parallel to the M1, but far enough away to allow development to take place between it and the M1. This development would fund the link road and the developers are ready to go. There is however, no Core Strategy for Central Bedfordshire and Luton. This is

required as it sets out what the area requires and would accept for development. It would include the locations as well. Without this, the Councils would not wish to allow development. The developer could then go to appeal, which they may win, as they would not be going against the non-existent Core Strategy. This would lead to the developer being in control of development and there would be little protection for villages like us.

The Core Strategy has been delayed because the Joint Planning committee of Luton and the old South Beds D C had banked on developing land beyond Stopsley, in Hertfordshire. This has been fought against by Herts C C (not surprisingly) and therefore they need to move quickly to get the Core Strategy up and running. The Hertfordshire development would have supplied 5,000 houses, so there is a shortfall, which may open the door for the Bushwood development north of Caddington. This would run alongside the M1 and may include the proposed football stadium.

As you can see, there are many ifs and buts, even if the Highways Agency accept the Woodside link being joined to Luton Road.

*Russell Currell, Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.*

### CVA Grant

The Parish Council has had an application for a grant from the CVA. As they are desperate for money to get them up and running again, we have agreed a £1,000 grant (see the CVA newsletter for more details).

*Russell Currell, Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.*

Future Parish Council meeting dates for 2010:

April 12<sup>th</sup>

May 10<sup>th</sup> (AGM).

June 14<sup>th</sup>

August 9<sup>th</sup>

October 4<sup>th</sup>

December 6<sup>th</sup>

At present the venue is the school, but may be in the Village Hall at times.