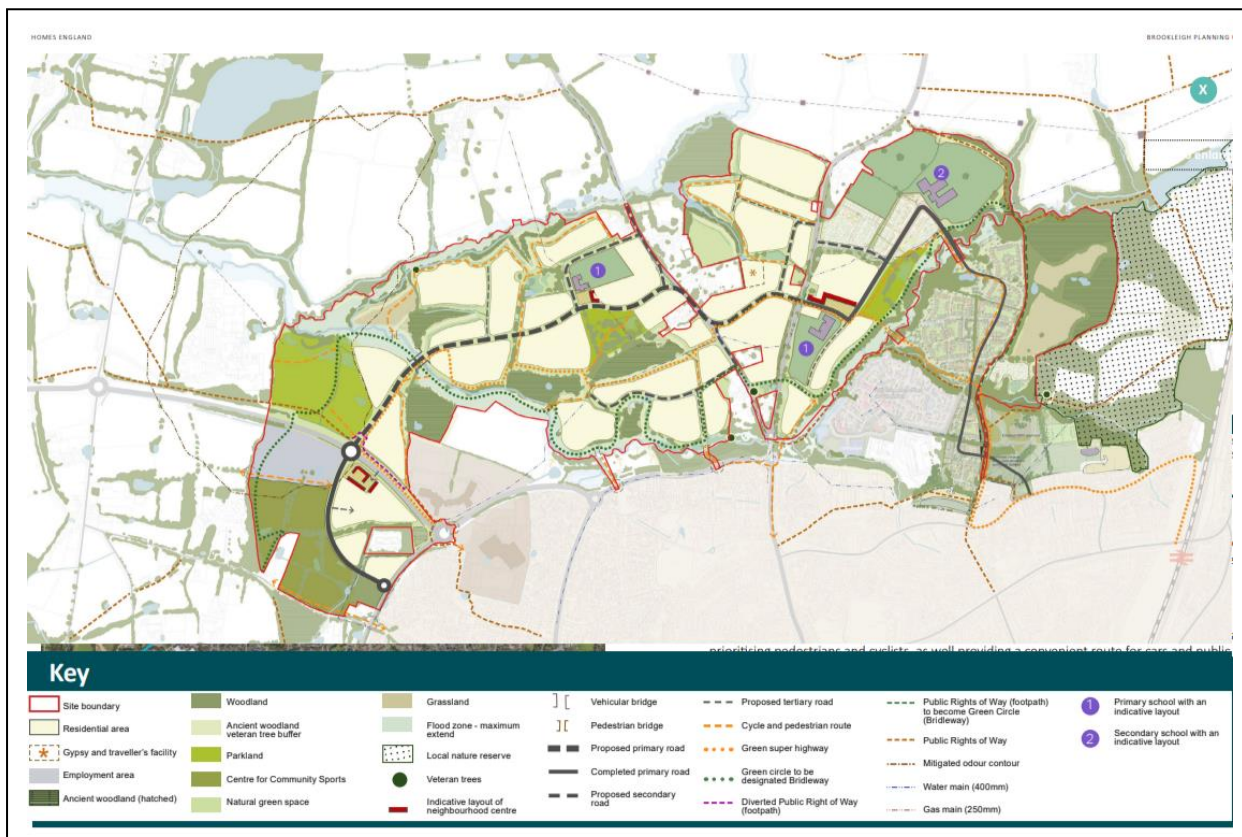


## Brookleigh Planning Applications – Leader Update 9

In my capacity as Leader of the Town Council, I receive regular updates from Homes England on the progress of the Brookleigh development, otherwise known as the 'Northern Arc'. The latest was received on 18<sup>th</sup> October and is in the form of a 'Planning Update' booklet, which I want to share with our residents.

A number of Planning Applications are in the preparation stage, for consideration over the next 6 months. These are principally for the laying down of shared use paths, Green Circle improvements and the new link road from the A2300. A new developer, The Hill Group, is proposing to build up to 270 homes adjoining the Bellway development on the eastern side of Brookleigh.



The map for Brookleigh can be seen in the above image and is taken from the booklet, a copy of which can be downloaded here. This map can be expanded to show the detail and as you will see, there are three Neighbourhood Centres shown, one on the eastern side, earmarked for shops and community activities, one next to a new Primary School and the other on the western side, close to the new A2300 roundabout.

There is no specific identification of the much-rumoured new Medical Centre; I presume it will be included in one of the Neighbourhood Centres but which one? If it does happen, it will need to be served by a frequent and reliable bus service, so that those unable to drive can have easy access to it.

In the booklet, there is mention of the plans to provide new shared use (cyclist/pedestrian) paths linking the north and south sides of the A2300 and from the Triangle roundabout to the new roundabout in Jane Murray Way. It is the stretch of the A2300 that concerns me, as this is a very busy road and I hope that the planners will include a toucan crossing in a sensible place.

Over the next 5 years (or more), Brookleigh will grow into a very large community and the early results of the Bellway development, for example, prove that it will be a pleasant place to live. Whilst Burgess Hill Town Council does not have the authority to make independent planning decisions, it can make recommendations that can influence the outcomes, so it is important that we continue to monitor and, if necessary, challenge some of the things we see.

High on our priority, as a Town Council, is to make sure that Brookleigh becomes an integrated part of Burgess Hill and not regarded as a satellite of it. There needs to be clear signage, on all the boundaries, that you are entering Burgess Hill, with a statement that says something like 'in the Heart of Sussex - a great place to live and work'. To support this, the proposed 'Joint Venture' between Mid Sussex District Council and New River Retail must happen, to create a town centre infrastructure that will attract both new and existing residents. Burgess Hill Town Council will be watching closely.

You can find out much more about Brookleigh by following this link: <https://www.burgesshill.net/housing/brookleigh> where you can sign up to your own copy of the Newsletter.