

## **Why Blackbird Leys Parish is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area**

Blackbird Leys Parish boundary and defined area of benefit.

### **Location**

Blackbird Leys parish also known as 'The Leys' is located in south-east Oxford, comprising to of two wards Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys (also known as Northfield Brook). It is situated to the south-east of the Oxford Ring Road (A4142). Access to the area is primarily via the Eastern Bypass (A4142) onto Blackbird Leys Road and Pegasus Road.

According to the 2021 Census, the Leys had 13,467 residents. The proportion of social rented housing in the Leys (46.8%) was over double the average for Oxford (20.9%). Between the 2011 and 2021 Census surveys, the total resident population in the Leys increased by 3%, which was below the percentage increase across Oxford district (7%) and Oxfordshire (11%).

The Leys has a higher proportion of young people and a lower proportion of older people (aged 65+) compared to the Oxford and Oxfordshire averages. As of mid-2022, the total resident population was 13,434 people, with 6,603 (49.2%) residents living in Blackbird Leys ward and 6,831 (50.8%) residents in Greater Leys ward (source: ONS mid-year population estimate).

### **The parish area is consistent with the boundary map designated area.**

Please see the map on Page 2.

The Leys will change considerably in the future, both in terms of socio-economic growth, but also via substantial planning applications with the area being regenerated due to its classification as an area of high deprivation. The objectives of the proposed plan are to influence planning applications, and to encourage infrastructure that will enhance the future lives of those working, living and studying within the ward.

The Leys is considered 'appropriate' for a neighbourhood plan not only for its distinct geographical and community identity, but also to represent the views of its diverse and youthful population. There are many areas that have been identified for improvement on the studies already carried out, along with greenspace-deprived' areas and a need to focus on reducing crime rates. Blackbird Leys Parish council believes it can deliver these objectives via an inclusive neighbourhood plan.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed Leys Neighbourhood Plan will focus on the needs and issues within the Blackbird and Greater Leys Parish boundary.

## Blackbird Leys Parish Boundary Map

