

# OUR HOME

Our lives have been turned upside down in a matter of a few short weeks. We've had the freedoms we always took for granted revoked for our own safety. Some of us face the threat of our livelihoods disappearing, some of us face the threat of having to go to work to serve society, and too many of us have lost loved ones in the most difficult circumstances imaginable.

# OUR HOME

## INTRODUCTION

In our struggle to cope with this new, unpredictable world we have found precious ways of coping. We have found pleasure in the simple things in life - making music, growing vegetables, taking a walk, reading a book. We have found each other - our neighbours, our community. The people around us are more important than ever.

There will come a time when the immediate effects of COVID 19 will be over, and we, as a community, will be tasked with rebuilding Basildon. **Will we value the same things that we did at the start of this year? What type of society do we want to live in? What really matters?**

**OUR HOME** aims to bring together local people in the midst of a global and local crisis to take a moment of calm in the chaos to have a conversation to reflect on our home, Basildon and our collective future after COVID 19.

# HOW IT WORKS

From the **4th May 2020** to the **17th May 2020**, local people from Basildon will come together, via the Internet, to produce **OUR HOME**, a collaborative text.

Created through a number of email conversations **OUR HOME** will begin with a single question. Those participating will be asked to answer the initial question and then ask another participant of their choosing a new question. This structure will be followed throughout, creating a question and answer trade; a mass pen pal exchange by those living and working in Basildon.

The resulting questions and answers will be collated into a publication. This document will be available publicly and will be used as a tool to help shape future provisions in Basildon

## WHY BOTHER?

In these uncertain and scary times it is understandable to ask why you would get involved in **OUR HOME**. No doubt you have far more important priorities to deal with urgently.

**OUR HOME** offers a moment to connect with others, to develop friendships under difficult circumstances. **OUR HOME** offers a space to reflect on our home, on what we value. **OUR HOME** offers a way to break up the long days of social isolation.

**Please join us if you can.**

# WHO CAN GET INVOLVED?

**OUR HOME** aims to bring together local people in conversation about Basildon. Anyone who has a love or vested interest in Basildon can take part, and there are no restrictions on the numbers of people who wish to participate in the exchange.

You do not have to be good at writing, you just have to be open to a conversation.

## KEY DATES

Sign up - **24th April 2020**

If you would like to participate please sign up by emailing:

**CPP@thingsmadepublic.com**

You will be sent detailed instructions.

Email Exchange - **4th May 2020 - 17th May 2020.**

## **RULES**

**BE KIND.**