

Bletchington and Hampton Gay & Poyle Neighbourhood Plan

Parishes Consultation Meeting

18th January 2023, 7pm

CHAIR: Duncan Ledger

STEERING GROUP ATTENDEES: Dan Robins, Rachel Pirie, Wayne Dobbins, Peter Drobac, Julian Bagwell, (Apologies received from Andy Jordan).

CONSULTANTS: Tom McCulloch & Stephen McKenna from Community First Oxfordshire.

COMMUNITY ATTENDEES: Fiona Teddy, Gareth Miller, R Ehrman, Andrea Lambert, Sue Parsons, Chris Jones, Kathy O'Connor, Drew Cooper, Sue Bedwell, Ben Arrowsmith, Barbara Oster, Graham Dunn, Anne Maclachlan, Paula Simmons, Victoria Gallagher, Rebecca McNaught, Mick and Pam Hayes, Helen Webber, James Warton, Pete Seaward, Karen Cattell, Matthew Blacker, Malcolm Lloyd, Nikki Lloyd, Kay and Doug Brand, Ian and Kathy Gedling, Kate Groves, James Groves, Peter Baker, Jim and Maureen Knight, Steve and Austin Cook, Chris, Sam and Sue Lane, Rebecca and David Watkinson

INTRODUCTION (see slides)

Duncan Ledger introduced the meeting, explaining why a Neighbourhood Plan is being developed; the process to date; why the 2 parishes are working together; and the role of the Steering Group. The Steering Group welcomes contributions, and more members if people would like to get involved. Please contact us at futurebletch@gmail.com

Duncan also introduced Community First Oxfordshire and explained their role.

COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

Tom McCulloch introduced the role of Community First Oxfordshire and explained that community involvement in developing the Neighbourhood Plan is crucial. Tonight's session will begin to explore:

- Challenges & opportunities?
- What's important to you?
- What should the plan be looking at?

Tom explained what a Neighbourhood Plan is, what it can do and what it cannot do. This was summarised in a handout for meeting participants and on the meeting slides.

Stephen McKenna summarised the themes that we may consider for the Neighbourhood Plan and the process for development of the plan. This included explaining that there will be a referendum to allow Parishioners to vote on the final plan.

NEXT STEPS

There will be further opportunities for people to give their views. We plan to undertake a fuller survey as part of the next phase of the engagement and will use some of the feedback from this evening to design that survey.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

Q: What does the Cherwell Plan say about development in Bletchington?

A: Tom McCulloch responded that the Cherwell Plan will soon be out in draft version, for consultation.

Q: Will a change in national government affect planning regulations and process?

A: There is national guidance regarding planning, Government has undertaken a consultation on this, more information is available here:

[National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-and-national-model-design-code-consultation-proposals)

Q: What happens if there is a tension between the Cherwell Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan?

If Cherwell District Council decide upon a housing allocation for the Parishes, the Neighbourhood Plan cannot change this, however the Neighbourhood Plan can influence the design codes, infrastructure and other aspects of development. A Neighbourhood Plan is the best way to influence development in line with the communities' wishes.

Q: Does the Neighbourhood Plan carry weight to influence local issues, for example public transport?

The Neighbourhood Plan is the strongest tool available for communities to influence local development, and to make a case for local facilities to be included in planning approvals. Neighbourhood Plans can also make a case to designate parts of the local area to be protected from development.

Q: What are the opportunities to include contributions to the District's biodiversity net gain?

A: The Neighbourhood Plan can include a target for biodiversity net gain.

Q: Can developers proceed with planning applications without considering the Neighbourhood Plan?

Developers must show that they have considered local planning policies when submitting an application, therefore Neighbourhood Plans must be considered. If a planning application is submitted before this Neighbourhood Plan is completed, it will not be able to take into account local views.

Q: Where is the funding for the consultants coming from:

This is jointly funded by Bletchington Parish Council and a government grant. Community First Oxfordshire are a community development charity with lots of experience of working on Neighbourhood Plans.

8pm – meeting presentation concludes. Participants are invited to stay for refreshments and to share their views with the steering group.

8.45pm – meeting closes.