

# Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan

February 2018



Our draft Character Assessments are available to view on the website. These Character Assessments have already been used to provide evidence of character in an area, which is a very positive step. We now have feedback and comments to incorporate.

Once we have done this, we will start to build up the “Land Use Implications” section for each Assessment. This is the “so what” element of the document. This section is critical as it gives the planners a very firm steer when considering future planning applications. We will need to highlight what positively contributes to the area, and what are seen as negative features. If you have any photos that you would like to send in, email them directly to [clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk)

A workshop is provisionally planned for 28th February, and will be an opportunity to finalise these documents. If you would like to come along, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## What have we been doing since November?

What can we say? What an incredible response rate to the Big Survey! 943 returns, that's 34% of the Parish. We were told to expect 5-10%, as that is the average rate of return on a postal survey. So this is a great response.

Our plan is to get the data processed from the 19th Feb. We will aim to get headlines and key themes by mid March and post these onto our website pages, Facebook, Twitter, Parish Noticeboards and through Cumnor Parish News. We have a volunteer

to write the data up into a report, together with the help of a local market researcher who is giving their services for free. We do have to analyse the free text ourselves, if anyone has some time and would be interested in helping do this, please contact us. The only skills needed here are attention to detail, a little bit of time and a good dose of impartiality!

This data will be invaluable, not only will it help us clarify the objectives and key themes of our Neighbourhood Plan; it will give us a

base for policies. However it is not the only data/evidence we will use. We are looking at the Rural Profile, the Vale's Landscape Character Assessment, Local Plan policies, Oxfordshire County Council strategies and surveys into education & housing needs, our own Character Assessments, the Vale's Design Guidelines, Local Wildlife Site / SSSI reports, cycle network strategies, Conservation Area documentation...and these are just the ones we have looked at so far!



Our Local Green Spaces Group met for the first time in January. This working group will start to look at which green spaces in the Parish hold special value and meaning for residents, for example, an area may hold amenity or recreational value, it may have historic significance or act as a green corridor. Designation as a Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan offers the same protection as Green Belt, and will last beyond the timeframe of the Neighbourhood Plan. An initial brainstorm identified over 50 potential areas, and of course, not all of these will be appropriate or eligible for designation; however for other areas it will be a useful way of enhancing and protecting local wildlife sites, informal play areas and open green spaces. If you are a landowner, and would be interested in finding out more or interested in putting forward land for designation, please contact us via the Parish Clerk.