

Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan



What have we been doing since May?

One of the major pieces of evidence that we are gathering is the development of our Character Assessments, which are almost complete. Whilst we are finalising these, we are kicking off two other activities - our Cumnor Parish Big Survey and the Local Green Spaces Assessment.

The first one is to develop the "Cumnor Parish Big Survey". This is a survey that will go to every household in the Parish (currently about 3,000 dwellings). This is the first time to our knowledge that feedback has been sought at such a local level, and will provide the data to develop future policies, so is an important activity for us.

We now have a draft questionnaire. If you would like to road-test this for us and give us some feedback, we are looking for about 10 people to be our guinea pigs. If this is you, let us know and we will email a copy out to you after 22nd August. We will need feedback within 1 week so

that we can take the final version to the Parish Council.

Our second activity is our assessment of Local Green Spaces. Cumnor has several dedicated parks and play areas, but also has a number of smaller open spaces that the community might feel is important to enhance and protect for future generations.

Within a Neighbourhood Plan, the community can assess and designate green areas as 'Local Green Spaces'. The Local Green Space designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. Once designated, Local Green Spaces receive protection consistent with national Green Belt policy.

However, at the moment we do not have an accurate up-to-date list of where these are, or any evidence as to how the community might want to use them in the future.

We now have a small, friendly group of 10 people who have volunteered to

The Vale of White Horse has now approved our Project Plan, and has released the initial monies for us to create and distribute our Cumnor Parish Big Survey. Our next steps are to finalise the current draft, seek approval from the Parish Council and organise printing. If you would like to join a small working group to oversee this work, please contact us. We promise that this will not mean door-to-door deliveries!

look at this, who will meet at the end of August to take this forward. We will be taking advice from the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), together with the Vale's specialist Landscape Assessment consultant to ensure we get the most value out of this activity.

What are we doing next?

- Steering Group meeting 7:30pm 22nd August - Fogwell Road Pavillion - with Senior Vale Planners
- Set up Local Green Spaces working group, agree scope and what we want to achieve
- Finalise Parish Survey and test with focus group, agree method of distribution & collection points
- Initiate funding (monies will need to be used within 6 months of receipt)

Note: For those new to the Parish or the Neighbourhood Plan Distribution Group, Cumnor Parish (whose boundary ranges from Farmoor to Dean Court, including Henwood and Cumnor Hill) has decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is written and developed by people in this community, and carries equal weight in planning law alongside The Vale's Local Plan (you might remember Part 1 was adopted in December 2016 and we are awaiting the outcome of the consultation of Part 2). The policies that we write will be based on the evidence that we are gathering now. The Neighbourhood Plan is going to give us a valuable backdrop in all our dialogue with central planners. At no point in the future do we want to leave Cumnor in a planning vacuum that could lead to ambiguity or misunderstanding by those who don't see our community day to day. As a community, we wish to shape and, as far as possible, control our own destiny, add clarity and describe to others what makes our communities special and positive places to live in and work. Ultimately, we want to help planners in the Vale get it right for this community.

