

Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan



The Area Designation for Cumnor Parish's Neighbourhood Plan was approved by The Vale of White Horse in February 2017. The area bound by red in the map (left) shows the area covered by the work that we are doing and includes Farmoor, Filchampstead, Dean Court, Henwood, Cumnor Hill, The Hurst and part of Wytham Woods. It covers 56 public footpaths, two Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a Conservation Area

What have we been doing since February?

Since February, we have been busy. If you haven't seen it yet, our website is up and running, and you will find this at www.cumnorneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. You can also find updates and the latest news on our Facebook page or by searching for @MyCumnor on Twitter. We will also aim to put a brief update in Cumnor Parish News each month.

We have a project plan that we are using to apply for funding, and a set of scoping papers that cover our key work areas of:-

- Environment (flooding, habitat, green spaces, heritage assets, SSSIs, etc)
- Infrastructure (schools, medical facilities, transport, Park & Ride)
- Housing (design, density, affordability, location etc)
- Economy & Leisure (business, reservoir, parks & clubs)
- If you would like to be added to our distribution list to receive updates about these groups, please contact us on clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk

Our first big piece of work was to undertake a set of Character Assessments. A huge thank you to the 16 volunteers who came along to our

initial session led by Dr Kathy Davies, a local heritage planning consultant, who expertly took us through how to use the Oxford City Council's toolkit. They researched maps through the ages, went out and about, took photos, made notes and delved into the history of their chosen areas.

They have drafted a set of Character Assessments that contain a significant amount of local knowledge and detail. For those that are maybe new to the Parish or the history of the area, there is some fascinating detail, for example the site of Blind Pinnock's Alehouse, the origin of the name "Songer's Close", the history of the tramline that went from The Hurst down to the bottom of Denman's Lane, photos of The Physic Well reputed to have healing powers for eyes and for those of you interested in Farmoor's Jurassic past, even the location of the Mammoth's tooth that was found at Farmoor during its construction during 1967.

Dr Davies has kindly agreed to draft our overall Character Assessment, and once this is complete, we will upload all of the documents to the website for comment and feedback.

What are we doing next?

Our next step is to develop the "Cumnor 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. Throughout this process, we have to be rigorous in the collection of the necessary information and data to inform our choices.

We have an experienced market researcher in the Parish who has offered to support us with this piece of work. If you would like to help us develop the survey, or you know of a student for example, who might find this a valuable learning experience or good for their CV, please get in touch. We aim to kick this work off before the summer with the survey going out in the Autumn.

We need to submit a budget and apply for funding, without this we will not be able to continue. If you could help us do this small piece of work then please contact us.

Note: It is important to remember that the Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan policies can be about any aspect of development land use - land for homes, businesses, public gardens, open space, recreation etc. However we are subject to Local Plan Part 1 & Part 2 policies. We can decide *where* development goes, *what* it will be like and *who* it is for, but within the policies that exist. So, for example, our policies can cover previously developed and brownfield sites but not areas that are defined as Green Belt. Cumnor as a Parish has delivered over 400 houses in the last 4 years on brownfield sites, so local policies developed by the local community will be vital in shaping how this Parish grows over the next 15 years. Also, whilst we cannot write policies relating to strategic issues such as school and medical provision, roads and transport, we can say how issues such as lack of sewage capacity or flood risk might impact on developments planned.

