

# Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan



It was a year ago that we held our first public meeting with over 100 attendees. So it seems a good point to reflect on our progress. Many Neighbourhood Plans have not got as far as we have in the time; many have stalled or stopped. We are making solid progress. From a standing start of nothing, with a process that is embryonic not only to us but also to the Planning Team at the Vale, we have made a good start and getting some excellent support from both volunteers and local organisations.

## What have we been doing since August?

We have had 18 people creating over 25 individual Character Assessments (CAs) covering over 80% of the Parish. We still have a few gaps such as Henwood, Rockley and a more detailed assessment of Appleton Road to do and these are being done as we speak. We are currently examining how these documents can be of use in planning terms even before any Neighbourhood Plan is adopted.

We have asked a number of local residents for their help in reviewing the documents to add richness to the assessments and to check for accuracy, adding footnotes to link to previous reports & surveys where appropriate. If you would like to review the CAs, then simply go to our website [www.cumnorneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://www.cumnorneighbourhoodplan.co.uk) and you will see a link to all of the Character Assessments on here.

If you prefer to see hard copies, please contact our clerk at [clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk). If there is any level of detail that you would like to add or change, let us know. The CAs will provide stronger evidence the more local people are engaged with the creation of them.

We are almost ready to send out our Big Survey. This 4 page survey will go to every household in the Parish and asks for people's views on a number of issues ranging from housing needs in the future, to traffic issues to use of amenities. We have engaged a local company to do the data analysis of the survey to make sure we comply with all data protection aspects and to make the most of the data that we get back.

The Big Survey will reach every single household (approx 3k) in the Parish and so is a critical piece of the jigsaw for us. After Christmas you will see several banners around the Parish urging people to fill out and return their surveys. If we could ask you to be ambassadors for this and prompt friends and neighbours to return their surveys this would be a great way to increase our response rate.

At our Steering Group meeting this week, we decided to send out the Survey after Christmas. This is partly due to Oxfordshire County Council having a survey out for consultation currently (with a deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> Nov) and not wanting to overlap. However, we also felt it important not to send out a consultation over the Christmas

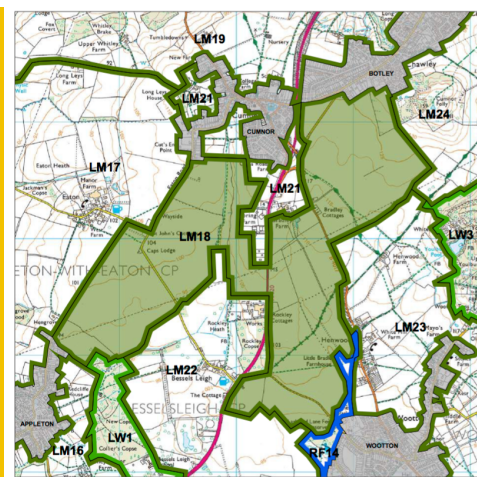
period as we felt that fewer people would want to fill out forms at holiday time.

The Vale are working well with us, and are giving us some extremely valuable feedback and support. We are also seeking advice from Community First, an organisation that has helped a number of Oxfordshire Parishes successfully create their own Neighbourhood Plans.

We have hit a challenge though. Our Steering Group consists of 7 people. As we move forward and start to see what tasks we need to do, we realise that we need more members on this Committee. Not only to help co-ordinate activities but to provide a broad representation of ideas on the work we are doing and the direction we are taking.

***So this is a plea. We need individuals to join our Committee – ideally we should have 12 people. If you could spare 1 evening a month, even if it is for the next 6 months – we would appreciate your input.***

We have 12 volunteers for the Local Green Spaces Group, and we are conscious that we have not been in touch. We have been talking to The Vale's Landscape Consultant to understand what studies have already been done under Local Plan Part 2 and what evidence we need to identify. This has taken longer than we expected. The Vale has published a very thorough Landscape Character Assessment and we would be very grateful if those who have volunteered for this group could take a look and feed back their thoughts to us i.e. what implications does this have for our Neighbourhood Plan and what concerns does it raise for you (if any). The document can be found on the Vale's website under Planning Policy/Local Plan 2031 Part 2/Local Plan 2031 Part 2 – Evidence Based Documents/Item19 - Landscape Character Assessment. Page 108 onwards describes the area in and around Cumnor (see map right).



LM18: BRADLEY CORALLIAN RIDGE LIMESTONE RIDGE WITH WOODLAND

