

Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan – message from Cumnor Parish Clerk

The Neighbourhood Plan Team is Up & Running

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are delighted to say that Cumnor Parish has been given the go ahead to start work on its Neighbourhood Plan. The Vale of White Horse District Council has confirmed that our Area Designation is sound and that we can begin to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This will allow the local community to have a say on its future development, give the parish a means of protecting its local green spaces, as well as a mechanism for identifying future infrastructure needs.

However, we need help!

We have three initial key pieces of work to complete, and need volunteers to make this happen. Our first job is to do a Character Assessment of the parish. This will establish the significance and relative importance of physical aspects of the parish (Cumnor Hill, Cumnor Village, Dean Court and Farmoor wards). We will run a short session where we can give you all the help you need, and then there would be several weeks within which to complete it. Here is an opportunity to learn about the history of houses, open spaces and other features in the area. It will include taking photos of our local areas, and noting key features. These features could be historical, community or environmental assets, green spaces or the presence of open spaces. It can document less tangible aspects of the area too, such as noises. These are then scored against the widely adopted Oxford City Council Toolkit, enabling an assessment of those things that positively add to the area and those things that detract from it. These assessments will become an important evidence base for later policies that are developed. Would you like to get involved? Get together with a friend or two, join us for the training session and wander around your surrounding area. Then take some photos and assess what you see against the criteria. We will then get together again to discuss and write up the results. Get in touch via the Cumnor Parish Clerk at clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk

We also need researchers. Do you love delving into history, or finding out what lies beneath the ground or even identifying what makes Cumnor tick using census and population data? We have a job for you! We have been given a huge level of support, and have identified where to go in order to build our evidence base, and it looks fascinating. If this is an area where you could help us out with a few hours of your time, get in touch with us.

In the meantime, the Steering Group will be putting together a more detailed project programme, a robust budget and applying for the initial funding to contribute to any professional support that we may need as time goes on. We will also be liaising with the Vale and aim to run the development of our plan alongside the work the Local Plan Part 2 timetable. This is a community project and we need you to engage in the process. You do not need any special skills, just an interest in your local area.

We will have our website up and running shortly. In the meantime, look out for us on Facebook and @MyCumnor on Twitter for latest news and updates.

30 Jan 2017