



April Update

In last month's Neighbourhood Plan Update we talked about how a future Whitchurch NP must thoroughly research and understand which areas in or around the village might be considered most appropriate for future controlled housing and development. That research is underway.

Any possible development site proposed for consideration in a future Whitchurch NP must fit with the future needs of the village and the wider Bucks County Council Local Plan and consider what it is about our village that we value so strongly. A group of the NP volunteers are therefore collating detailed information about the cultural heritage, environment and green spaces in Whitchurch. This research will enable the NP group to propose sites that may be both available for development and crucially are appropriate. These sites will form the basis of consultation within the village before finally being put to the village in a referendum.

Whilst some of the NP volunteers are contacting landowners, another group is involved in another key aspect of the NP. If you remember back to the original questionnaire of spring 2019 residents were asked what they liked about living in Whitchurch and what their concerns were about the future. The following were deemed to be most important:

Easy access to the countryside
Rural atmosphere

And the following, in addition to over-development, were residents' concerns:

Traffic
Loss of existing facilities including shops, pub, post office

The protection of green spaces
The protection of historic and listed buildings
Access to good broadband and mobile signal
Decline of community spirit

Traffic, facilities and broadband/mobile do not fall within the remit of a NP although of course the implications for increased traffic of any proposed development sites would be carefully considered. If you remember the conclusion of the questionnaire was that the village wanted not just a NP but also a Community Plan to look at all the 'softer' aspects of life in Whitchurch. Once the urgency to agree an NP has passed attention will be turned to the Community Plan (CP).

We hope you can see not only how much work is being undertaken by a small group of volunteers but also that the plan is put together in both a structured and transparent manner. The NP reports to the Parish Council each month – meetings are currently held on Zoom but as with face-to-face meetings these are open to the public. Details of the zoom link can be found on the village website <https://www.whitchurch.org/local-bodies>.

We would also like to invite residents to an online meeting on...

April 7th at 7.30pm

...for an update and the opportunity to ask questions. Please email info.whitchurchplan@gmail.com for details of the link. We will however place the link onto the village website in early April. We hope this will be a useful session until we can safely meet face to face and look forward to talking to you.

We'd like to leave you with a question: What do Aston Clinton, Buckland, Cheddington, Edlesborough, Great Horwood, Haddenham, Ivinghoe, Long Crendon, Marsh Gibbon, Pitstone, Quainton, Steeple Claydon, Slapton, Waddesdon, Wendover, Weston Turville, Wing, Wingrave, Winslow and Worminghall all have in common? The answer will be in May's Whitchurch News.