



June Update

Work is carrying on behind the scenes on the NP and we hope to be able to share a time line with everyone soon that will take the plan through the crucial consultation phase and hopefully onto endorsement and adoption following a referendum.

Attention has also been turned within the group to the Community Plan (CP). The CP builds on the results of the 2019 questionnaire and on the work that goes into the NP around the village's built and green environment. The CP is less of a plan and more an evaluation of the village with thoughts on what more could be done. It will be up to groups and individuals if and how to act on the suggestions that arise from the various consultations.

We had planned, pre-pandemic, to conduct focus groups and village meetings around the community aspects of our village. Many individuals in the questionnaire referenced a decline in 'spirit'. It is clear though that when needs arise, as they did last spring, that the village has many residents that do care and many were helped by the Whitchurch Community Help group, led by the PCC, during the pandemic and that recipients of the Christmas hampers were greatly appreciative of the thoughtfulness.

We have been reaching out to groups that are particularly active in the community and have a broad base of members, including the school, WCCA, Rotary amongst others. If you haven't been approached this is not because we don't want to hear from you or aren't interested it is just a matter of time available.

We have asked all groups to come back to us by the end of June with their thoughts on their current activities, what they would perhaps like to do more of and what could be done to support them further. The role of the CP is not to come up with all the answers but to understand the issues and to facilitate greater communication and engagement between groups and within the village. If you or your group has anything at all you wish to add to the conversation, please do let us know. As we emerge from lockdown this is great opportunity to reboot our activities.

In tandem with the outreach to community groups we are also contacting businesses of all sizes and types based in the village to understand better how the village can work with them. Also, with many more of us now home based for some or all of the working week what does this mean for the village? Does this create opportunities for groups to develop and support each other? Our village will certainly be different post pandemic but can we take the opportunity to shape it to be an even stronger community?

If you or a group or business are involved with would like to make your views known please do so by emailing info.whitchurchplan@gmail.com with your comments by the end of June.

We look forward to hearing from you.