



September Update

A huge thank you to everyone that came to the first Informal Consultations in July. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) group of volunteers are grateful for your engagement and input with more than 150 attending. The feedback received was incredibly helpful in understanding the views of residents and to ensure that any site(s) finally selected could have broad support within the village. The sites put forward by landowners, along with a reminder of the NP process, are now on the village website.

By August 31st all landowners wanting a site to be considered within a future Whitchurch NP must provide initial sketch plans including the number and types of houses, alongside practical issues including access and traffic management. These sites will soon go through an independent Site Environmental Assessment (SEA) which evaluates each site to assess appropriateness and viability. Historic England, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Buckinghamshire Council are all involved. At the end of the SEA process each site will have in-effect a red, amber or green viability status. This will help in selection of the most suitable site(s) for the NP, alongside a policy document which is work-in-progress.

The July consultations were the first and more will come before final recommendations are put to the village in a referendum in 2022, so please keep talking with us.

The next consultations will be on November 4th and 7th and will take the form of a presentation followed by Q&A.

We plan to show far more detail about individual sites, including number and type of housing proposed by landowners. Please note the dates and keep an eye on the Whitchurch News and village website closer to the time for details of how to reserve seats at one of the sessions.

It is, as ever, important to keep in mind that without an NP any of the sites proposed could potentially end up being built-on over time and as a village we would remain in the endless cycle of objecting to planning applications without the over-arching protection of an NP. As more villages around us adopt NP's any village without one becomes more attractive to developers. Please continue to support the NP team in developing and adopting a plan that is right for Whitchurch.

Photography: Unfortunately, there were not enough entries to the competition to make a calendar viable. Many thanks to all who entered, there were some fabulous images, and these will be both included on the village website and used to illustrate the Neighbourhood Plan and Community Plan documents. There were some particularly lovely ones from Whitchurch Combined School and we were delighted to hear how pleased both staff and children were to be involved.