

# **Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan Referendum June 21st - Why you need to vote!**

## **What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**

Neighbourhood planning allows local communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. This was introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

A Neighbourhood Plan, while addressing the issues of the local community, has to be integrated with the key policies of a larger District Local Plan (the responsibility of the District Council) but it will then be a major factor in the consideration of local planning applications.

A community does not have to have a Neighbourhood Plan but, without it, local needs can be overlooked when the District Council and other planning authorities take planning decisions for the area.

## **Can it be effective?**

Even before a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by a community the mere knowledge that one is under development has coloured the activities of developers and local planning bodies. Most adopted Neighbourhood Plans have been in existence for less than three years but evidence is accumulating that they are improving the outcome of planning applications in their communities, though subject in some areas to aggressive centrally-driven planning changes.

## **How did we find out what the village wants?**

The recent development of 180 new homes in Adderbury reinforced the view that we should have a Plan that respects our rural heritage, and which is measured, timely and sustainable.

The Plan has been brought to this stage by the dedication of a team made up of an equal mix of Parish Councillors and other volunteers from throughout the village.

The process started in July 2013 with a major Community Survey of residents and local businesses which reported back to the village for consultation as The Adderbury Plan (TAP) in September 2013. The results have been updated and augmented by further discussions and feedback from residents and other stakeholders into 2017. The resulting policies are set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan which now requires your approval.

The Plan has now received the necessary approvals from the planning authorities and an independent examiner. Once approved by the community in a referendum and then by the District Council, it will become part of the development plan for Cherwell District. Our Neighbourhood Plan will enable occasional reviews by the community to reflect our changing needs.

## **What did you say you wanted?**

The consultations identified common themes on the need to:

- Protect and enhance the character and vitality of Adderbury
- Restrict new development to within current boundaries, and minimise the impact of new development on the village, the surrounding countryside, landscape and ecosystems
- Provide existing and future Adderbury residents with the opportunity to live in suitable homes
- Ensure Adderbury has and will continue to have the appropriate resources and services to support the size of village
- Encourage local employment and small-scale local businesses
- Protect our environment and support eco-friendly developments
- Control road traffic and reduce the need to drive by car around the village and to and from Adderbury
- Strengthen the leisure amenities available to villagers within Adderbury

## **What is in the Plan for you and Adderbury?**

The Independent Examiner concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to Adderbury's sustainable development. He considered that the Plan seeks to:

- Restrict development outside a defined settlement boundary;
  - Support infill development within a defined settlement boundary;
- Protect and enhance the landscape in open countryside;
- Maintain or enhance the value of defined green infrastructure;
- Designate seven Local Green Spaces;
- Conditionally resist development of eighteen identified areas to be designated as Local Open Spaces;

- Define two Local Gaps where development will only be supported if it does not harm the open character between Adderbury and Banbury and Adderbury and Milton
- Establish design principles for development in defined areas of the Parish;
- Resist loss or harm to the significance of ten buildings and structures of local importance
- Allocate identified land off Milton Road for sports and community uses;
- Conditionally support proposals to improve or extend community facilities at Lucy Plackett Fields;
- Conditionally support proposals to improve the viability of identified community assets and local services and guard against their unnecessary loss;
- Support proposals for new or expanded shops or commercial units and guard against their unnecessary loss;
- Conditionally support proposals for new employment and tourism uses, including tourism and leisure uses along the Oxford Canal, and proposals for intensification of uses on defined established business parks; and
- Resist unnecessary loss of land or buildings from business use.

**All these points relate to the specific policies set out in the Plan**

### **What is *not* in the Plan and how will that be dealt with?**

- A Neighbourhood Plan is only about land use and development
- Areas which can only be influenced but not controlled by the Parish Council such as traffic, parking, education, wildlife protection, etc, are not included
- However the Parish Council is working on a Strategic Plan for the village covering a number of objectives for these areas, and ways to implement them. They will be seeking ways to influence both CDC and OCC in order to achieve the parish's aspirations in these areas.

**Please vote on June 21st**