

Neighbourhood Plan

Exhibition boards from the latest drop in event 'Shaping our Future' (30 September at the Arborfield Green Community Centre) can now be viewed on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.arbarplan.com. The Steering group is seeking feedback on the ideas presented. Comment forms in the form of a flyer have been distributed to households and businesses and there is an online version on the website. The final date for comments is 5 November but it would be helpful to receive comments as soon as possible so that we can press on with writing the draft plan.

We would particularly like comments on the Vision and Objectives (see below). These reflect the prime issues which have surfaced from the Residents Survey. It would be desirable to ensure that we are heading in the right direction before developing specific policies that will flow from the objectives.

The exhibition poses a number of questions and alternatives concerning a range of key issues that are being addressed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group would be interested to hear comments on any of these items.

The expectation is that the full draft Neighbourhood Plan including all the proposed policies will be available for public consultation before the end of the year – so look forward to some Christmas reading!

Vision and Objectives

Vision

A sustainable future for Arborfield and Barkham as a thriving and accessible community, managing development to be inclusive for all age groups and enhancing the identity and rural setting of the villages.

Objectives

Protecting identity and rural setting of the villages

- Protect and enhance the countryside - new development should blend into the landscape, not dominate it.
- Retain separation of settlements to preserve their individual identities.
- Enhance heritage and natural environment and extend conservation designations where possible.
- Enhance the natural and historic setting of Arborfield Cross village centre and Barkham Street.

Thriving community (includes community facilities and recreation)

- Provide full range of facilities - schools, leisure amenities, retail, medical.
- Promote a strong rural economy

Accessibility (transport and greenways)

- Contain congestion on residential roads
- Expand opportunities for sustainable transport

Managing development (housing, design and parking).

- Match housing to local needs – starter homes, key workers homes, lifetime homes and care of the elderly.
- Require high quality design incorporating efficient use of resources.

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