

## CFO Neighbourhood Planning Support

### **What is a Neighbourhood Plan and why should your community start one?**

A Neighbourhood Plan gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood, setting out general planning policies for the development of land in the local area.

A NP gives a community more say in where new houses, businesses, shops, and facilities should go. It can allocate sites for development and include more detailed policies, for example to define how new development should look. A NP can also help your community develop local responses to global issues, such as the climate emergency.

A Neighbourhood Plan is led by residents. It reaches out to all parts of the community to ensure it reflects a wide range of opinions, needs, and aspirations. It the most useful community tool in the box to shape not only future development but also to identify other community issues that need to be addressed.

### **Why work with Community First Oxfordshire?**

CFO has supported 30 Neighbourhood Planning Groups. We believe that communities can produce a Neighbourhood Plan using their own expertise and capacity, with support and guidance from our team of specialists.

From comprehensive project management to bespoke commissions, we work flexibly to meet your specific needs.

Our support has ranged across the full spectrum of Neighbourhood Plan activity. It has included:

- Project planning
- Community engagement strategies
- Sustainability appraisal scoping and baseline evidencing
- Policy formulation
- Research and drafting of key documents: Environmental Report, Basic Conditions Statements and Consultation Statements
- Community infrastructure (and housing) surveys

Our service is underpinned by excellent working relationships with the relevant Planning Authority.

## What do Neighbourhood Plan groups say about working with Community First Oxfordshire?

**‘CFO has offered us valuable guidance and mentoring throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process. Without them it would have been virtually impossible to reach our objective. We have no hesitation in recommending CFO to any organisation who may require their expertise.’**

*Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

**‘CFO’s advice was sound, encouraging and clear. I have no hesitation in recommending the services of the CFO to any community that is contemplating a Neighbourhood Plan.’**

*Drayton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

**‘As a community volunteer running a Neighbourhood Plan, the support provided by CFO has been a life-line.’**

*Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

**‘Working**

**with CFO has been a very positive experience. We have been impressed with the quality of advice we have received and the expertise they have brought to both public meetings and meetings with fellow professionals. We would have no hesitation in recommending CFO to other organisations.’**

*Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

To find out more about Neighbourhood Plans and how CFO can help  
contact: [info@communityfirstoxon.org](mailto:info@communityfirstoxon.org) 01865 883488

### **Community First Oxfordshire is a community development charity**

2020 is our centenary year. We support community action projects and volunteering, community halls and transport schemes, and local businesses. We also run a Neighbourhood Planning and ‘placemaking’ consultancy, helping communities and clients, including developers and Local Authorities, identify infrastructure requirements and develop the policies and projects necessary to achieve them.