

## **Endorsement of Charlton Horethorne Community Plan 2016 (Executive Decision)**

*Portfolio Holder & Ward Cllr Tim Inglefield & Cllr William Wallace*

*Member:*

*Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities*

*Service Manager: Tim Cook, Area Team Lead (East)*

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### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the findings and actions from the Charlton Horethorne Community Plan and to ask members to formally endorse the plan.

Representatives of the steering group will be at the meeting to present the plan for endorsement.

### **Public Interest**

Communities establish their own priorities and achieve their goals by mobilising residents and businesses. The priorities and issues for Charlton Horethorne, identified through consultation, are set out along with specific solutions, actions and policies in a published document.

### **Recommendation**

That Area East Committee formally endorses the Charlton Horethorne Community Plan.

### **Background**

Community Plans are effectively commissioned by the town/parish council and produced by local steering group with parish/town council representation. They are local documents, drawn up and adopted by Town/Parish councils. The endorsement of community plans by Area Committees has no legal status, but ensures that the community planning process is used to influence policy and action plans via the Area Development Plan (ADP).

Endorsement by AEC confers recognition that a sound process has been followed to deliver the plan. It does not imply support for any land use allocation that would pre-empt a planning application. The full document has been circulated to members and can be viewed on the Parish Council website: [www.charltonhorethornepc.org.uk/community.html](http://www.charltonhorethornepc.org.uk/community.html)

### **The Process**

The working group, established with representation from the Parish Council, wrote a Community Plan Questionnaire and a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) Form, which were delivered to all 290 households in the parish in October 2015. The questionnaire included questions supplied by the Primary School and the Church.

By the closing date at the end of November, 173 completed questionnaires had been returned (60 % response rate) together with 165 HNS forms.

During December 2015 and January 2016 the Questionnaire results were entered into a database, analysed and summarised. At the same time, SSDC produced a Housing Needs Survey Report based on the HNS form responses.

With this evidence base available, the working group formed three sub-groups to develop draft policies on:

- Housing and Development
- Traffic and Road Safety
- Environmental and Social Issues (including key parish assets, the Churches and the School).

The emerging policies were discussed, amended and agreed by the full working group, resulting in a set of 26 draft policies.

The draft policies were presented as part of the Annual Parish Meeting on the afternoon of Sunday 20 March 2016 and subsequently updated by the working group based on the feedback received. The 26 final policies were then adopted by the Parish Council meeting on the evening of Monday 11 April 2016

The result is a high quality policy document with associated actions, underpinned by an evidence base, which should be useful for guiding local decision making on a range of issues including a strong basis on which to reach a view on the value to the community of future planning applications.

### **Actions based on key findings/major Issues**

The Final report survey findings and actions have been arranged under the themes, Housing & Development, Traffic & Road Safety and Environmental and Social Issues including Key Parish Assets.

#### **Housing and development**

Unlike many other Community and Parish Plans, the plan for Charlton Horethorne has identified a maximum number of new houses the parish would find acceptable and could be accommodated without compromising existing infrastructure and services. This number is based on local evidence and consultation. The plan has no formal planning status but it is expected that the policies set out in the plan will influence developers and help the Parish Council respond to planning applications.

The plan also describes the type of housing needed with starter homes and smaller houses to allow for downsizing mentioned specifically.

The consultation process has identified the need for a small number of small workshop units to help sustain the balance between housing and employment.

Consultation results show that the majority of local people would expect future growth to be delivered through infill and would oppose the loss of agricultural land.

The Parish Council will also work with others to produce a design guide for the parish by the end of 2018.

A number of people have expressed the desire/need for allotments and the Parish Council will investigate the actual demand.

### **Traffic and Road Safety**

Issues with road safety, particularly the speed of vehicles through the village was a major issue raised through consultation. The Parish Council has already worked with SCC Highways to take a number of steps to improve the situation and on the whole, the policies aim to maintain the work that is going on.

The existing Community Speed Watch scheme and the SIDs that are already in place were identified as important local responses to the issues identified.

### **Environmental and Social Issues including Key Assets**

The consultation process identified aspiration and potential need for additional facilities including allotments, facilities of children & young people, additional sports facilities and the return of an annual event the local 'Feast Day'. The Parish Council intends to facilitate further investigations to ascertain the actual level of need for the above and to encourage volunteers to lead on the various elements. The Parish Council is also assessing the potential scope for developing the use of existing facilities such as the Village Hall and Millennium Green.

### **Implementation of the community plan**

The plan has been adopted by Charlton Horethorne Parish Council and the responsibility of reviewing and monitoring the success of the policies rests with the council. The plan is very clear that the delivery on many of the actions and projects will only be possible with support of volunteers.

The Area Team Lead has worked with the local group and has provided advice and guidance at various stages of the process. The group has demonstrated that they have followed a sound process and that the conclusions, policies and actions are underpinned by local evidence.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report however, if members agree the recommendation to endorse the plan, actions and projects identified will become eligible for support from the Community Planning Implementation budget, subject to application.

### **Corporate Priority Implications**

This work contributes towards increasing economic vitality and prosperity and ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities.

### **Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications**

Improved local provision of facilities and activities within each village or town and increasing local participation reduce the need to travel.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The community planning process supported by SSSDC aims to give every local resident the opportunity to have an input into the way in which their town or Parish develops.

**Background Papers:** *Charlton Horethorne Community Plan 2016*