

## **EAST CHALLOW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (ECNP)**

### **Annual Report to Parish Council 22nd May 2018**

The draft neighbourhood plan document is nearing completion for initial review by VWHDC before formal submission to them. Draft policies (available to view on the Parish Council website, in the News section under Neighbourhood Plan ) were presented by the ECNP steering group at a village meeting on 23rd April 2018 attended by 35 villagers. Discussion at the meeting centred on concerns about the impact of substantial planned housing development on the historic rural character of the village (126 houses on land south of the A417 between the village and Wantage), and also about traffic on the A417. The proposals being prepared by developer Dandara for 750 houses on land to the north east of the village, between Woodhill Lane and the canal, also generated much concern; Dandara claim that this development would finance construction of the Wantage Western Relief Road. We have recently heard that Dandara propose to hold an exhibition of their proposals in the village, in June.

The ECNP Steering Group has remained active and engaged throughout the past year. The main achievements in this period have been the following:-

- Promotion, preparation and distribution of a parish-wide consultation survey.
- Analysis and reporting of the consultation survey
- Two progress meetings with VOWHDC
- Successful application for funding of £7130 from Groundwork UK under the government's Community Rights Programme in Nov 2017 (additional to £10,000 awarded by VOWHDC in March 2017)
- Appointment of Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) as our main NP consultant
- Appointment of Portus & Whitton to prepare a formal Village and Landscape Character Assessment
- Appointment of Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre to prepare a biodiversity report
- Development of the ECNP submission document to near-final draft status
- Selection, development and preparation of draft planning policies in areas of:-

Green Gaps (avoiding coalescence with Wantage)  
Protection of Countryside  
Local Green Space  
Carbon Footprint  
Environmental Issues  
Parking  
Traffic  
Community Facilities  
CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)  
Public Rights of Way and Footways  
Western Relief Road

- Presentation of the above policies at a village meeting on 23rd April 2018 (The final policies will be embodied in the ECNP for review by VOWHDC and their examiners before future publication in advance of a village referendum).

Peter Rumsey

ECNP Chair