

## **Endorsement of Charltons Community Plan (Executive Decision)**

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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 Charltons 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 Adam and Charlton Mackrell, 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 Charltons Community Plan 2017.

### **Background**

Parish & Town 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 Area East Committee (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. Once endorsed, the full document will be made available on the Parish Council website. A copy of the plan has been distributed to members with the agenda..

### **The Process**

The Charltons Community Plan Working Group was established in 2015 and has overseen a range of consultation activities that have provided sound evidence for the guidelines and actions set out in the Community Plan report. The consultation process has given all residents the opportunity to participate. The survey achieved a 31% return and a follow-up community drop in event attracted over 200 people. The group also commissioned a Lottery funded Housing Needs Survey which has enabled the plan to cover local housing need in more detail than other similar plans.

The result is a comprehensive community plan document which sets out guidelines and 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.

## **Guidelines/Actions and Key Issues**

The Community Plan report clearly sets out guidelines under the headings of Housing & development, Traffic, transport & road safety, The natural environment, Business and the local economy, Leisure, Charlton Mackrell C of E Primary School, Places of worship and key parish assets.

Main issues identified include, speeding vehicles and the aspiration to reduce the speed limit to 30mph in much of the parish and supporting the local speedwatch scheme. The need for a number of projects including a business directory has also been identified.

Actions that result from the issues include:-

**Housing and Development** – Use the evidence and adopted guidelines to inform discussions with developers and the local planning authority.

**Traffic, Transport & Road Safety** – Lobby SCC, Continue to fund Community Speedwatch & Investigate new locations.

**Improved Transport Options** – Establish a working group to investigate community/voluntary led transport options.

**Footpaths** – Appoint a Footpath Officer/Co-ordinator

**Keeping the Parish Litter Free** – Support the annual litter pick.

**Business and Local Economy** – Proactively engage with local business and establish a business directory.

The Charlton Community Plan will be made available via the parish website and a copy will be circulated to members.

## **Implementation of the Community Plan**

The plan has been adopted by the Charltons Parish Council and the responsibility of reviewing and monitoring the success of the actions 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 and partnership working with outside agencies and funders. Parish Councillors will take the lead on guidelines and actions and progress will be reported to the community at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Neighbourhood Development Officer has worked with the Parish Council 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 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 SSDC aims to give every local resident the opportunity to have an input into the way in which their town or Parish develops.

**Background Papers:** *Charltons Community Plan 2017*

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