Whitchurch on Thames

Neighbourhood Plan Process

November 2016

Village Plan vs. Neighbourhood Plan

Village Plan

- Re-fresh 2009 Village Plan
- Identify new issues
- Incorporate Framework of Community Led Plan and Neighborhood Plan

Community Led Plan

- Traffic and parking - **Rachel to initiate WG**
- Environment – **MOWS initiated**
- Village hall/ recreational facilities – **initial discussion under VG and Neighbourhood Plan WGs**
- Community Well-being suggestions – **potential for social/fete/regatta WG**

Neighbourhood Plan

- Have a say on where new development in the community happens and how it will be built
- Becomes legally binding part of SODC Local Plan
- Receive 25% of community infrastructure levy (CIL) from resulting development
- **Jim to initiate WG**

Neighbourhood Plan Process so far

Meeting with MP John Howell – Parish Council (PC) votes to develop both Neighbourhood Plan and Community led Plan Jan 2016

PC Applies for Neighbourhood Planning Area Designation Feb 2016

Village Plan Open Day Held May 2016

SODC indicates small villages will be asked to increase housing by 5%

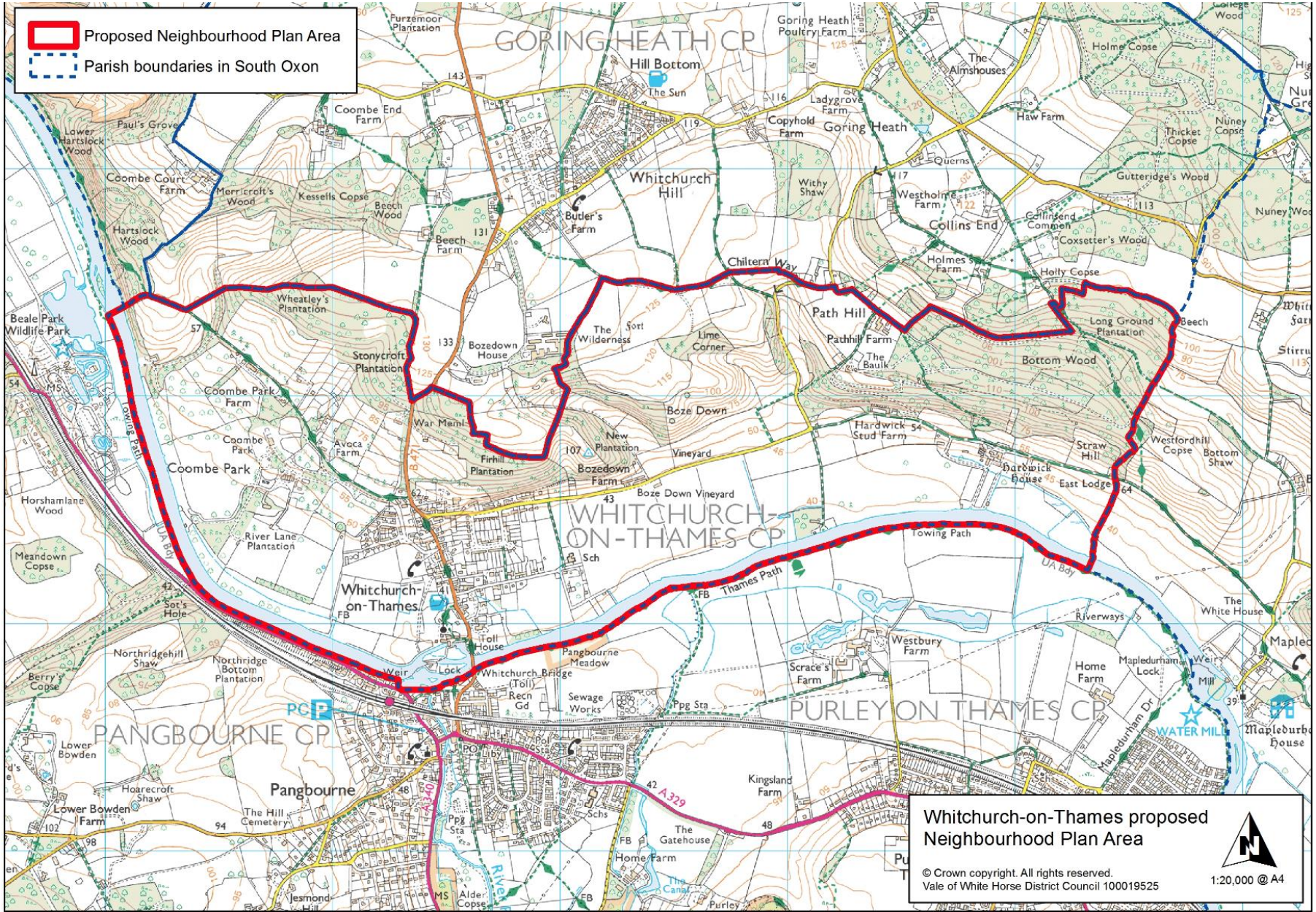
SODC Living area designation consultation 19 July – 16 August

SODC Neighbourhood plan contact resigns – recruitment on-going

Initial WOT Neighbourhood Plan WG meeting 14 Nov

Whitchurch on Thames	2001	2011
Residents	758	824
Occupied Households	324	327
5% increase		17

Whitchurch Area Map



Neighbourhood Plan

Pro's	Con's
• Residents have say over what areas get developed and how they should be developed – create legal document that becomes part of SODC Local Plan • Village received 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy from resulting development to use for the community (15% without this) • Village is better prepared for developer proposals and how these fit into our overall vision,	• Not a vehicle to stop development • A significant amount of work – requires up to 2 years of energy from several villagers and PC • Risk that resulting Neighbourhood Plan can be overridden by SODC and developer proposals

Village Plan Open Day Feedback

Countryside & Environment

- Restore / maintain grass margins on Hardwick Rd
- I like having lots of trees. +1
- More bins. More lighting ('The Cut', Eastfield Ln)
- Remove weeds Walled Garden wall from the post box up the High Street
- Dog mess around the High Street
- Cut the grass shorter on the Village Green

Traffic & Parking

- Permit parking on the High Street +2
- Potholes +5
- Speed Cameras – Speed Humps – Wider path near bridge both sides
- Traffic bottlenecks at the top and bottom of the High Street
- Keeping the bus for the village +7
- Stop cars driving on the pavement. +3
- Safer pedestrian / school children access
- Widen the pavement. +3
- Traffic in the High Street. +1
- Parking on the High Street and other locations. +5
- Hardwick Road and High Street Junction
- Better lighting for pedestrians at night. +1
- Speeding cars on Hardwick Road. +5

Community Well Being

- A Fete! Smash the plate!
- More church events
- Relocate the Village Hall to a new VG Pavilion
- Support the diversity of the community
- Consider the Old Stable Room for village events
- Feeling of community. +3
- Don't want to lose second pub. +1
- Regatta – Pangbourne vs Whitchurch. +1
- A yearly or bi-yearly village party! +1

Future Development

- Need for affordable house to keep village diverse
- Concerns about losing the Village Hall as a community hub

15 residents signed up to be part of follow-on WGs

Key steps to develop Neighbourhood Plan

1. Agree agree objectives for future community development
2. Identify potential sites – call to local landowners
3. Review sites/ request developer proposals
4. Prepare plan
    1. Recommend sites – agree development criteria per site
    2. Community/ SODC engagement
    3. Apply for grants as required
    4. Consultant/ expert review
    5. Develop polices for how CIF funds would be used
5. Formal examiner review of draft plan
6. Take to village for referendum

Next Steps

- Initial Village WG Monday 14th Nov
- Start with step 1 – objectives for development – what do we want our village to look like in the future – what are the issues?
- Timeframe could range from 18 months to 4 years (Sonning Common)
  - WOT should be less effort as fewer sites likely
  - Dependent on support of local volunteers
  - We could decide to stop the process at any of the key steps
- Should be led by villagers – facilitated by PC as needed