

Neighbourhood Plan Focus Groups

We have now created three Focus Groups who are using the feedback you have already given to produce the content of the Plan. They are also contributing their own

expertise and ideas. The topic areas for the Focus Groups, which follow the format of the Local Plan from WDDC, are:

1 The Economy and Community Needs

This will cover:

- Employment strategy
- Retail development
- Tourism
- Farming
- Local community sites and buildings
- Public Open space, sports and recreation
- Education
- Local transport

2 Sustainable Development and Housing

This will cover:

- The need for new housing
- Reuse of old buildings
- Sustainable levels of growth
- Affordable and open-market housing mix
- Potential sites for new housing
- Design statements

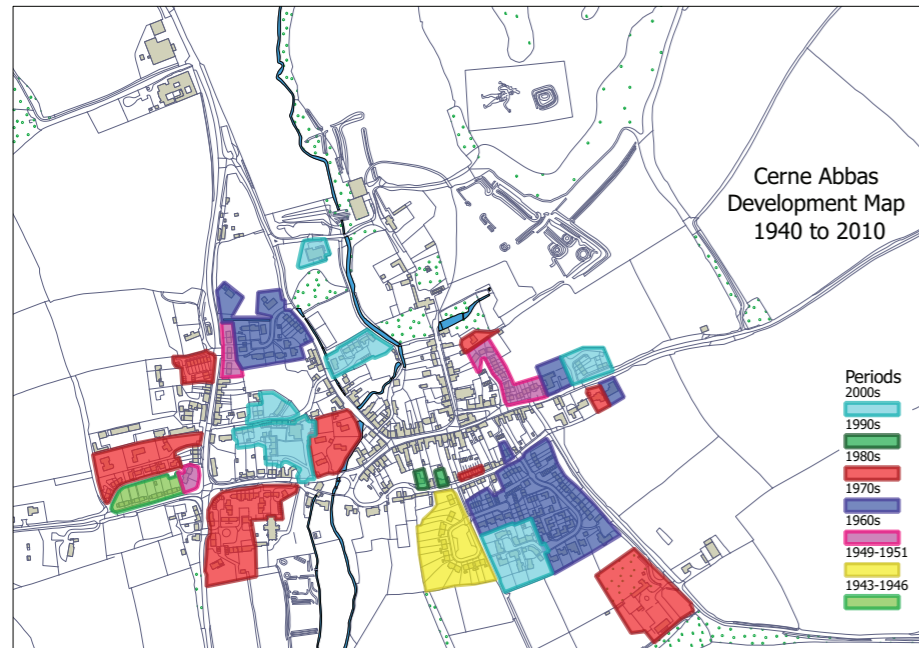
3 Environmental issues

This will cover:

- Protecting and enhancing our environment
- Protecting our built heritage
- Recycling and energy supply

Want to get involved? If you would like to participate in any of these topics and feel you have expertise, experience or ideas to contribute, please let Fred or any Working Group member know.

Cerne Abbas Development History



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What happens next?

Now we have received the draft WDDC Local Plan, the Working Group, assisted by some other volunteers from the community, are examining its relevance and ramifications for our own Neighbourhood Plan.

Once this task has been completed and we have consulted other interested parties such as landowners and developers we will push ahead with drafting our Neighbourhood Plan. We hope to have achieved this by the end of the year with a view to sharing the draft with the community in early 2013.

Thereafter the formal process of getting the Plan agreed and approved will go forward. Details will be put on our website when they become clearer.

Ian Humphreys,
Vice Chairman.



Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan



My thanks to those of you who attended the village meetings in Godmanstone and Cerne Abbas during the Spring and to those people who have given written

feedback. These contributions have provided us with useful input to a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the Cerne Valley. One message that has come loud and clear – there is little appetite for the Princes Foundation options contained in the last issue. Therefore I can assure you we will be developing our own Cerne Valley version based upon our needs.

Our next get-together will take place on Tuesday September 11th in Cerne Abbas Village Hall, when landowners will be invited to outline their ideas for any possible future development. These ideas can then be taken into account when the Neighbourhood Plan is written to ensure that the resulting proposals are in tune with the views of the majority of residents. See details on page 3.

Become involved – as you will see from the analysis of the Feedback information, we are breaking down the preparation of the Plan into three Focus Groups. Each of these requires input from individuals in the Valley. None of us are experts but our views and contributions are important to the outcome. If you would like to be involved in any of these groups, please contact me or any member of the Working Group.

Thankyou for your contributions and ideas so far and I hope you will feel that these are well represented in this issue of **It's for you!**

Fred Horsington, Chairman,
Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

In this issue ...

- Feedback Received so far
- The working Group
- Plan Development Day Sept 11th
- Focus Groups
- Development history of Cerne Abbas
- What happens next

The pink gazebo!



Photograph: Richard Hartley-Sharp

Feedback opportunities for residents

Feedback received so far...

1 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment

- Protect village atmosphere*****
- Maintain peaceful environment*****
- Improve 26-28 Long St. (with enforcement order?)*****
- Improve Mill Lane*****
- Signpost path from Kettle Bridge to centre***
- Improve Kettle Bridge area***
- Keep old buildings in good condition***
- Keep green space opposite school***
- Improve appearance of Toilets**

“Keep the village atmosphere and avoid any significant development” is a reoccurring message. People treasure the environment we live in and can be reassured protections such as being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, having Sites of Special Scientific Interest and living in an environmentally sensitive area will ensure the valley remains untouched by significant developments in the future.

2 Achieving a Sustainable pattern of Development

- Avoid building outside current boundaries***
- Sensibly phased, slowly developed new homes***
- Let the Valley continue to grow organically**

3 The Economy

- Protect the existing businesses and shops*****
- Support local pubs, cafe and restaurants*****

- Craft Centre/small business studios in empty shops*****
- Support small farms***
- Create more local jobs/exploit broadband***
- Create more opportunities for broadband (home) based workers**
- Install super high speed broadband**
- Establish a Visitors Centre and Museum**
- Take advantage of our USP – The Giant**

Protect our assets! We have noted people value local assets we already have such as our shops, pubs, school, surgery etc - which we must strive to keep. There also seems to be recognition that the attractiveness of the village, the surrounding countryside and the Giant are important to the long term viability of the tourism aspect of our local economy.

4 Housing

- Affordable (small) houses for local young people or older downsizers*****
- Develop infill sites within existing boundaries***
- Open-Market houses to meet demand for quality family housing***
- Open-Market development to support affordable housing***
- Convert barns to tourist accommodation**
- Establish quality design criteria.*
- Resist removal of VAT exemption on Listed Buildings.
- Use brown field site in Mill Lane

No major development! Fortunately we are not under any pressure from the West Dorset Local Plan to provide a massive number of new houses, but there seems to be an appreciation that some

small and gradual growth in housing supply, both affordable and private, would be acceptable to the community during the next 15 years. Infill opportunities could be examined and small spaces on the outskirts may also be considered, so long as these avoided “strip” development and protected the existing beauties of the surrounding countryside.

5 Community Needs and Infrastructure

- Cycle path through villages*****
- Car Park near village centre*****
- Improved, maybe smaller, bus services*****
- Speed bumps or speed limitators***
- Community composting locally****
- Change C12 road classification / A352 declassified to B road****
- Keep green play areas***
- Move school to larger site***
- Better access to Village Hall**

School, parking and cycling -The school attracts quite a few mentions. In the main, residents recognise and support the building of a new school, but the Simsay site is not popular with everyone. The importance of the school is vital to the community so we have a duty to ensure that its future success is protected. Another tricky issue is the question of parking in Cerne Abbas. Easy access to shops is important for the economy and if there is an opportunity to find a more central parking area in Cerne Abbas we should examine its viability.

Godmanstone specific

- Retain Godmanstone as it is now with no facilities*****
- No need for a development Boundary in Godmanstone*****

- Godmanstone needs no further development.***
- Godmanstone development at north end if at all.**

Keep it as it is - feedback has focused largely on a “no change” ambition. The residents have chosen this village for its peacefulness and seem to accept that they have to drive to reach the shops. Many would like to see the pub reopen. New housing is not thought necessary but a few well-sited houses could be accommodated.

**Indicates the number of people mentioning this*

The above feedback is at 19 June and is an edited summary of about 75 Feedback Forms and letters received so far. The full analysis can be found on www.cernevalley.org.

Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Members

Fred Horsington	Chair
Ian Humphreys	Vice Chair
Roy Burnham Jane Andrews	Communications
Andrew Farrow Adam Wilkes Vic Irvine Richard Maisey George Mortimer Jane Stannard Malcolm Savage Helen Hewitt Trish Davy Penny Gostelow	

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Photograph: Roy Burnham



The Working Group Working

Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan Development Day.

Tuesday September 11 2012, Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Objectives:

- To coordinate any development plans or ideas which landowners may have.
- To ensure that these plans are in tune with the feedback received from the community (see separate analysis on Page 3)
- To inform the community of possible developments over the next 20 years.
- To enable questions to be asked and answered

Invitees:

1000-1300	Landowners from the area Interested developers Estate agents District Council representatives Neighbourhood Plan Working Group members
1300-1400	Lunch break
1400-1600	All residents of the Cerne Valley plus participants from the morning session.
Chairman:	Fred Horsington, Working Group Chairman
Facilitator:	Geoff Wright, Design Council representative

Rationale:

This session is being held to enable more details of the Neighbourhood Plan to be created. Output from the meeting will be considered by the Working Group so that the Plan can be prepared in a way which reflects the majority wishes of the community. This is purely a consultation and information day, not a formal planning meeting.