

Consultants & First Survey

In February, O'Neill Homer were appointed Neighbourhood Planning Consultants to act for the Ottershaw Forum, to provide guidance and expert knowledge in achieving a Neighbourhood Plan that can be successfully adopted in a referendum.

In March we undertook our first Community Opinion Survey. Once again, many thanks to everyone who participated - the results were posted on the ONF Web Site.

The survey informed the development of our Strategy and our initial Vision statement, which will continue to be developed with guidance from RBC and all Community Stakeholders through further, more detailed surveys and questionnaires in coming months.

Current Ottershaw Planning Developments

There are two significant new housing developments in the village, Brox End Nursery and Ottershaw East. Work on Brox End Nursery has already started.

The ONF Steering Committee (SC) responded to the Ottershaw East outline application requesting significant improvements in many areas.

The SC also monitors smaller local developments outside the Local Plan, including Brockhurst and the Travis Perkins site and submits representations whenever appropriate to protect village interests.

A320 Roundabout – SCC planning application expected early December 2021

Members will recall the original 2018 SCC proposal for an enormous new roundabout. Since then, following significant pressure from community members, many revisions have been made, resulting in the current proposals. This scheme is still significantly larger size than the existing one, but has been reduced in size and is now distanced from the Village Hall. The combined efforts of the ONF working together with OWARA, BRAG and Ottershaw Society, resulted in an exhibition of the latest Plans in the Village Hall on 13th November. Over 250 residents were able to examine the proposals and ask questions of representatives of the community organisations. Many helpful and constructive comments were made during the exhibition which will contribute to ONF representations.

All residents are encouraged to make individual representations during the 21 day consultation period, once the Planning Application is lodged - this is now expected in December. We will alert Forum Members when the application can be accessed.

Design Policies for the Neighbourhood Plans

An important task of the ONF is to develop Design Policies to influence the Planning Process and inform RBC when considering applications within our area. A Working Group, supported by external consultants AECOM, are assembling images of the styles, features and appearance of the Neighbourhood Area, to develop a characterisation of that which is the 'best' of Ottershaw and similar communities. In due course this will be presented to the

Community so their views can be incorporated, and developed into Policies which we will submit to RBC for adoption for our Area.

Housing Needs Assessment

A core element of our future Plans and our Vision for the Area is the need for a clear understanding of the Housing needs of all sectors of the Community, both now and for the future - through to 2040 and beyond. The SC has appointed consultants AECOM to undertake this work for us and to liaise with RBC, who are undertaking their own assessment for the next Local plan due to be adopted in 2025 for the next 15 years, to 2040. Housing Need will be translated into the new housing quotas which RBC must provide across the borough - Ottershaw will no doubt be required to provide its share.

We must recognise the need for affordable housing, elderly care, and rental housing along with open market owner-occupiers, specifically for our immediate community.

Second Community Survey – planned for early 2022

In planning for the future of our Area to 2040 and beyond., we need to establish what facilities and infrastructure our community may need and want, also recognising that some growth will inevitably occur and have to be accommodated. It is hugely important that all Stakeholders within our area contribute their ideas and views. That will involve all sectors of our residents, businesses, landowners, organisations, and Education, Health and Recreation ‘authorities’. It is particularly important to secure a representative spread across age groups. The ONF will be undertaking a major survey in the new year seeking everyone’s contribution. The outcome will be a clear statement of the Community’s Vision of the future of our area. We are now working towards our second Community Survey, which will be seeking more detailed views from our villagers and stakeholders.

Media Presence

The Forum website is now fully developed and we also have a dedicated Facebook Group. Check regularly so you don’t miss out on recent developments and upcoming events!

Funding

Funding for the Forum comes primarily from Government and Local Council grants, charitable awards and Surrey County Councillor allocations. This allows us to progress the work required on our Neighbourhood Plan towards a referendum of all residents.

Volunteers Wanted!

As the Neighbourhood Plan for Ottershaw progresses, we will need more help from our members, which may involve help with marketing, distribution of leaflets, research into particular areas such as footpaths, accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users, vehicle volume/speeds in and around the village.

If you can give up just a little of your time, or if you have particular local interests, we would like to form a ‘register’ of volunteers who we could call upon to assist with the various tasks as they arise. Just email info@ottershawforum.com to let us know your interests and availability (e.g. 1-hours per week / month, etc)