



## Hemingford Grey Neighbourhood Plan

### Update August 2020

#### Review of activities to date

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had planned for the initial survey of residents to take place in March – April 2020 along with associated consultation events.

However the timetable coincided with the growing public health emergency caused by Covid 19. It was evident that by mid March that events would have to be cancelled even before the official Lockdown; for example the NPSG meeting was cancelled on March 17 2020 and did not meet officially until August when a Zoom meeting was held.

*A Neighbourhood Plan Update* was delivered to every household in early March

The residents survey was delivered to all households over the weekend of March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Children at Hemingford Grey Primary School completed the survey before the schools closed and Lockdown began.

We are very grateful to all who did find the time to respond to the survey either on paper or online. However due to the timing of the survey many households had other pressing matters to consider.

As a result the response rate for the survey was low at below 20% (final response rate still to be calculated)

The following events to raise the survey's profile and to gather the views of younger people and businesses were also organised and had to be cancelled.

- Pre-school play group
- Cubs and Scouts to complete the survey
- Pizza events with local young people
- Drop in sessions for local landowners and businesses

Natalie Blaken, our consultant through Cambs ACRE, had been commissioned to do the following

- A Demographic & Socio-Economic Review of Hemingford Grey Parish
- Planning Policy Context Analysis

These reports were completed in March and are on the Parish Council website.

In June once the lockdown restrictions permitted people to meet in the open air some activity restarted. This is centred on providing background information for the Neighbourhood Plan

process. The projects are also tying in with projects being undertaken by the Parish Council on verges and a wish to create an environmental plan for the parish.

A small group are working on the landscape surrounding the built up areas. A second group are slowly working their way around the built up areas taking photographs of the street scene and verges and green spaces. All this information is being fed into a database so that we will have the background information for the planning policies that emerge from the Neighbourhood Plan process.

It is likely that there will be restrictions on people's lives for months to come. Some residents will be wary of people knocking on their doors and small indoor meetings will probably not be feasible. This may continue until a vaccine is available for all residents. So the steering group had to think about how the New Normal would impact on how we interacted with residents and worked as a group. So the Parish Council agreed to fund a Zoom workshop facilitated by Natalie Blaken so the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group could review progress to date and formulate where we go from here.

#### Zoom workshop

The following key actions were agreed at the workshop

- Analyse the survey results and publish an overview.
- Consultation with local landowners and businesses through one to one meetings
- Consultation with residents on how has Covid and lockdown altered their views on the village and parish
- Raise the profile of the Neighbourhood Plan throughout the community. This would include a dedicated website and the use of social media. Banners and pop up stands also suggested.
- Recruit additional volunteers for specific projects and the steering group.
- Continue to photograph all the roads so that we can capture the character and essence of the parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group composed of residents and some parish councillors need some more help. The Neighbourhood Plan belongs to all of us and the future of the parish rests in all our hands. So please help if you can.

At the moment are in need of help in the following areas

- Development and management of a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website
- Help us develop an image/s that reflect our parish and its ethos
- Photographing the roads and verges throughout the parish.
- Joining the steering group
- Becoming an Ambassador for your road or organisation

If you would like to know more about the Neighbourhood Plan please contact Anne Meredith or Robin Waters.

If the Neighbourhood Plan is not your thing please think about supporting some of the events planned by the Parish Council over the next few months. A Litter Pick on Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>, Bulb Planting on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, a pavement collection of non

perishable food stuffs for Godmanchester Food Bank on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October and tree planting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will next meet on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm by Zoom. If you would like to join the meeting please contact Robin Waters [robin.waters@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:robin.waters@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk) who will send you an invitation by email.

Councillor Anne Meredith