

AGENDA ITEM 7

Chichester Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) Chairman's Report – Planning and Conservation Committee 2nd February 2023

Timing. The CNP work is scheduled to finish by November 2024 (subject to a successful Public Examination and Referendum). A project plan is available for review. Uncertainty on Local Plan (LP) timing has meant we have had to slow our work to avoid running far ahead of the LP. A meeting with CDC planning leadership is in the process of being scheduled for late February/early March.

Public Engagement. Two public events in early 2023 have been scheduled.

Chichester Community Collaboration Forum

The Chichester Community Collaboration Forum is confirmed for Monday 20th February 2023. 10.00 to 15:00 Hrs in the Old Court Room.

Contributors are limited to 10-minute presentations/maximum 10 slides comprising a position statement for that group. Each Position Statement forms part of the body of evidence showing community engagement. It's important that the CNP shows strong community involvement and feedback to satisfy NP compliance requirements and that that what is put forwards identifies significant needs that are within the scope of what an NP can deliver. An intent of the Forum is to identify very tactical needs (which might be addressed via community grants or other mechanisms) and more substantial needs (which might be addressed via the CNP or the Local Plan).

We have had a broad range of interest and content from different sporting, environmental, children's, culture and local organisations.

PLACE Workshops

The PLACE workshops are confirmed to run on:

Monday 20th February 2023. 17.00 to 18.30 Hrs. Old Court Room

Monday 27th February 2023. 15.00 to 16.30 Hrs. Old Court Room

Monday 27th February 2023. 18.00 to 19.30 Hrs. Old Court Room

The PLACE workshops will follow the same format and content but will not be customised to specific geographical areas in Chichester. We've taken this decision as we are unable to offer five workshops specific to Wards and we don't want to limit Ward attendance to one specific time slot, which may be inconvenient. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions specific to their area or topic of interest.

These events have been scheduled to complete prior to the "pre-election period of sensitivity" starting in March 2023.

We plan to run a much broader engagement later in 2023 (possibly as part of the Festival of Chichester, June 10-July 9, 2023) when we have a more settled view to test with the public.

Qualifying Body Interface. The CNP governance specifies a formal Qualifying Body Interface (QBI) provided by the City Council to liaise between the CNP Steering Group and the Council. Councillor Quail has kindly agreed to act *ad interim* as the QBI to replace Councillor Plowman who has stood down.

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Volunteers. The CNP is a significant volunteer-led, multi-year undertaking. We have an established core team, but we require volunteers. Some of the skills needed are quite specific (e.g., Event Planning; Social-Media—TikTok, Instagram, etc.; survey development, data analysis). These are practical roles. Recommendations on possible volunteer sources are appreciated. This remains a critical gap, and we have made little progress to expand the volunteer pool.

The data gathering process. It's vital that the CNP work does not pre-decide what the results will be, or decide too early based on incomplete information or insufficient public input. The CNP also requires that we show how we've asked for feedback and reflected that feedback back into the work of the plan. It's important we remain open minded and let the data we gather guide what we put forwards in the plan. We need to demonstrate to the public examiner that we've gone through an empirical and open process on what the needs are and to evidence these needs before reaching our final CNP conclusions. Our conclusions and thus our policy recommendations will therefore need to come quite late in the process and follow the data. We are exploring relevant data sources (e.g., from the Census, WSCC, CDC, and Chichester BID) to inform our work and are exploring new research areas (pedestrian movements, parking, etc). Councillor Gershater has kindly offered to support this work as a subject matter expert on data and data modelling.

Requests of the City Council

1. Councillor participation in the Chichester Community Collaboration Day and the PLACE briefings as observers. All Chichester councillors at County, District and City have received invitations.
2. Councillor promotion of the Chichester Community Collaboration Day and the PLACE briefings. It's particularly important that we focus on underrepresented groups that do not otherwise participate in planning processes or where there may be substantial unmet needs.