

CHEDDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PLANNING WORKSHOP: 24 JULY 2014

Environment Theme Notes:

Three key issues:

- Local Green Spaces
- Community Orchard
- Footpath Network
- Biodiversity

Local Green Spaces:

- Existing Green Spaces have been identified by the steering group. Out of these, the ones not in Parish ownership should be designated as Local Green Spaces.
- The spaces identified and discussed were:
 - The Green - for its playground and recreational qualities.
 - The Allotment site and the land immediately surrounding it. This land should be considered for possible future expansion of the allotment site as demand may increase over the plan period and beyond. The land west of the Village Hall should also be designated.
 - The land off Lammas Road which is currently being used for sport and recreation by Cheddington Combined School.
 - The land off Goose Acre and Brownlow Lane
 - The land off Sunny Bank

Community Orchard

- Most agreed that a community orchard is a great idea in theory as it relates to the history of the village. However some were sceptic as to how it would be managed and the real long term demand, would enough people use it? Its use needs to be defined along with the management and upkeep.
- Some believed the orchard would be more viable as part commercial orchard and part community run, perhaps a weekly farmers market would create more interest?
- There were two ideas as to where the orchard should be located:
 - Along the railway line where some trees already exist. This could simultaneously work as a landscape buffer between the village and the railway line. There was an idea of creating a foot path along the orchard to link in with a "round route" circling the village.
 - On part of the land marked as 28A on the steering group's map of sites. This is one of the existing traditional orchard and there were ideas of creating a mixed use scheme on this site, incorporating an orchard on part of it together with a community hub.

Footpath Network

- Most agreed that a footpath network is needed and several routes were suggested:
 - A footpath from Blenheim Close to Westend Hill (the Manor)
 - A footpath from the village to the station, could this be achieved through the Church Path?
 - The old railway line was also mentioned as a possibility.
- The main consensus however, was that there should be a circular walk around the village. Should the CNP identify land for housing development towards the

station, the route should take into consideration this new part and include the station in the footpath network.

Biodiversity

- The CNP may want to include a policy on biodiversity to safeguard the habitats for badgers, Pipistrelle bats, Brown long-eared bats and Nobel Chafer beetles.
- The areas in need of protection are mainly north of the village by the existing traditional orchards but also by Croft Meadow Fields to the south. Further areas may need to be considered.