

Health and Communities: comments on Joint Local Plan Issues consultation

- The local planning authority should work with the community and health organisations to understand and take account of the health, well-being and needs of the local population, including expected future changes. The planning system must play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
- Health of the community is dependent on the population, environment, housing, education, income and should encourage cross-sector collaboration to improve health and well-being in all its forms.
- Planning policies and decisions should consider the effects of pollution, noise and adverse impacts on health and quality of life of the local community, especially adverse impacts arising from new development.
- The local community through its Neighbourhood Development Plan should be able to identify special protection for areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space, the community should be able to control any new development in valued areas.
- A sustainable community should be well connected with good transport services and communications linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services. New development should contribute positively to a healthy lifestyle and make adequate provision for all necessary community facilities, including public open spaces and recreational facilities.
- An increase in sedentary commuting has been the result of a reduction in the use of public transport. By creating an accessible and walkable environment, investment in a cycling infrastructure and efficient public transport, encouragement would be given to active travel.
- With an ageing population, local communities should take active steps to increase the availability of National Health services, pharmacy and demand a reduction of hospital waiting times.
- Local communities should be able to demand and give greater consideration to Age Friendly Housing.
- Encourage a sense of well-being in the community by ensuring that any future developments promote a feeling of belonging and provide an opportunity for recreation and social interaction, thus reducing isolation.
- Support should be given to community projects, activities for the elderly and local involvement. This should include the members of the local school, businesses, churches, village halls, pubs and restaurants.

- The younger age groups of singles and families are moving out of rural areas due to a lack of affordable houses and unsuitable training and employment opportunities. These groups are being replaced by more affluent, older families moving in from urban areas.
- Our community is supported by three Parish Councils, regular news sheets, church magazines, Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Committee and active village halls.

Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston, Whitmore Parishes Neighbourhood Plan Group
March 2016