

Orwell Neighbourhood Plan Update



It's been a while since we've shared an update about the Neighbourhood Plan in the bulletin, although we've been sharing lots of updates on the website

<https://orwellneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/>

and some of you may have spotted a new banner at the top of Town Green Road advertising our site too.

You can also type Orwell Neighbourhood Plan into your preferred internet search provider and we will be one of the top results.

So what's been achieved so far?

We applied for a grant from Locality to undertake some of the specialist reports and prepare documents that are required for a Neighbourhood Plan. Our thanks to Orwell Parish Council for supporting our application. We were awarded the grant which enabled us to do the following:

We held a workshop with Cambridge ACRE to lay out the next steps needed for Orwell to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, including advice on what reports we would need and when. This enabled us to get the first set of commissioned reports written so we could start to build the evidence needed to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

Demographic, Social and Economic Review of Orwell

This report gives us a great picture of the different groups of people living in Orwell and how they are accommodated (or not), and it enables us to take this into account as we develop our Neighbourhood Plan.

From this report, we now know:

- Orwell's population grew by 11% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, with a 9% increase in dwellings since 2011
- Population growth is expected to continue to increase over the next 20 years
- Orwell has an older age profile than district and county averages, with a significant growth in the retirement age population over the past 20 years
- Detached housing is more common in Orwell than across district and county

- Orwell has a low share of private rental housing. We have high rates of owner occupied and social housing. House prices are amongst the highest in South Cambridgeshire
- The average household size has reduced over the past decade
- One in six residents are classed as disabled
- One in six employed residents work in Orwell, with almost half working in South Cambridgeshire. Over 130 people commute into Orwell to work

We've also formulated a Community Engagement Strategy with the help of Cambridge ACRE. This not only helps us plan how we involve you in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, but is critical for us to demonstrate your involvement when we eventually submit the plan. One of the conditions of accepting a Neighbourhood Plan is that the community has been involved and are supportive of the final plan.

With the aid of the grant we were awarded, we've also been able to create a **"Planning Policy Context Analysis"**. This ensures our plan is line with the relevant planning policies which apply to Orwell.

Links to all of the highlighted documents can be found on the Orwell Neighbourhood Plan website.

What we're doing next

We're planning an event in the Village Hall in Late June/early July (date TBC) where we can update you on progress, share some of the findings with you, tell you more about what we need to do next and where we need your help or your views. It'll also be a great opportunity for you to ask questions – and as ever we're always on the lookout for volunteers especially as we move into the next stage of gathering more detailed information about Orwell, and how you would like to see it develop in the future.

As soon as we have a confirmed date, we'll circulate this via the Orwell News email. If you don't receive this at the moment, please contact Jill Whiteoak via email jill.whiteoak@btinternet.com and she will add you to the list. We'll also advertise the date on the website and on posters around the village.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information about the neighbourhood Plan and how to get involved, please contact us at info@orwellneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

Mark, Sam, Steven, Philip and Ian
Orwell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group