

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR LITTLEMORE 2025-2040

Key points, and guidance on how to comment on the draft Plan



The importance of public consultation. From 7th May to 18th June 2024 Littlemore Parish Council is holding a public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Littlemore 2025-2040.

Drafting the policies has taken a lot of work by many people who live in and care about Littlemore, both Parish Councillors and other residents. We have done our best, but we realize that there are many different issues and views, and what we have written may need to be revised. This pre-submission public consultation is a chance for those who live, study or work in Littlemore, and those who are involved in Littlemore in any another way to comment on the draft Plan and to make suggestions for changes and/or additions. All responses will be considered seriously when we prepare the final version.

The draft Plan is quite long and detailed (see page 2 for how to access it), but we hope that you will wish to read and comment on it.

To help you, we have prepared this summary, and included guidance on how you can make comments.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? A Neighbourhood Plan is a local planning document which is intended to provide local planning policies. It must be in general conformity with the National Policy Planning Framework and the Oxford 2040 Local Plan.

Once it has been adopted, it will influence planning developments in Littlemore, and be used to guide community projects in the next 15 years (up to 2040). However, it has limited force until it is adopted at a referendum and will not influence short-term planning decisions.

How are Neighbourhood Plans prepared? As is explained in the draft Plan, there is a set process that we must follow. We started back in 2017 but restarted the work in 2022. There are eight main stages, though the time scales below are approximate:

THE EIGHT STAGES	TIMESCALE
Consulting those who live, study and work in Littlemore on local issues	Completed Summer 2023
Analysis and drafting policies	Completed January 2024
Draft approved by Parish Council for public consultation	February 2024
Pre-submission public consultation	7 th May 2024 to 18 th June 2024
Consideration of responses and submission of revised Plan to City Council	Summer 2024
Public consultation by City Council	Autumn 2024
Examination by Independent Examiner who decides if things need to be changed	Early 2025
Referendum at which residents vote whether to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan	Hoped for in May 2025

The structure of the Neighbourhood Plan

There are four main parts:

1. Introduction: we define the area covered, describe what Littlemore is like, provide statistics about the Parish, and show how geographically fragmented it is;
2. Why a Neighbourhood Plan is needed: we highlight how Littlemore has often been overlooked, and how recent developments have changed the area, often without providing additional facilities making it a less harmonious place than it was before;
3. The Vision and Objectives and draft Policies;
4. How to make comments and Appendices.

The Vision and Objectives, and draft Policies

The Vision and Objectives are set out on pages 16 and 17 of the draft Plan, and the draft Policies and supporting text are on pages 19 to 37. There are five subject headings:

Built Environment;

Community Assets and Infrastructure;

Natural Environment;

Transport and Connectivity;

Health and Well-being.

Some policies are Strategic Policies which means that they must be taken into account when planning applications are considered. The rest are Community Policies which are not related to planning developments: they identify aspects which would improve Littlemore or avoid undesirable outcomes. The labelling shows which of the five subjects each policy covers, and whether it is a Strategic or a Community Policy. The titles of each Policy and a sentence about each are in the chart on the next two pages.

Making your comments

This consultation is your chance to help make Littlemore an even better place to live over the next fifteen years. We welcome comments and will consider them all, especially those which highlight

what we may have missed out or not got right. All the relevant documents are available on the Littlemore Parish Council website <https://littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan> or use the QR code.

You can find paper copies in several places: they include local schools, the Community Centre, the Village Hall, St Mary & St Nicholas Church, Littlemore Library, and Reception of the Magdalen Building in the Science Park). Copies can be made available if you contact the email address below.



There is a two-page paper response form, to which you can add additional comments. If you have detailed comments, you may find it easier to respond online via the Parish Council website. If you wish to suggest changes, it will be helpful if you can provide an alternative wording, referring where possible to the relevant section of the draft Plan. We need to receive your responses by 18th June 2024, either online or at one of the two addresses on the response form.

If you have queries, or suggestions, we will try to answer them. Please contact us on nplan@littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk.

You can meet us at drop-in sessions as advertised in the Littlemore Local. If you would like someone to come and explain the process and the contents of the Plan to a local group, let us know and we will try to attend. In particular, we would be pleased to arrange sessions for groups with speakers of languages other than English, with an interpreter, where this can be arranged.

Please tell your friends and neighbours about the Neighbourhood Plan and encourage them to read it and respond to this consultation. We look forward to hearing from you all.

Maggie Willis *Chair, Littlemore Parish Council*

Tony Eaude *Chair, Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan Working Group*

POLICY HEADINGS AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AIM

Built Environment

Encouraging improved and new infrastructure (BES1) - supporting new developments which meet community needs such as health facilities, small retail units and places for people to meet.

Sheltered and supported housing (BES2) - encouraging more of such facilities.

Parking pressure (BES3) - encouraging developments which cause less pressure on on-street parking.

Resisting large HMOs and avoiding family houses becoming short-term letting properties (BES4) - trying to keep housing mostly for the use of families and individuals.

Enhancing historic buildings (BES5) - preserving and enhancing historic buildings, especially Littlemore Priory

Encouraging energy efficiency retrofit (BES6) - encouraging energy-saving measures, with appropriate design sensitivity, particularly for historic buildings.

Community Assets and Infrastructure

Replacement of community facilities (CIS1) - ensuring that where development impacts on existing facilities, they are replaced or improved.

Improvement of existing community assets (CIS2) - supporting development which improve existing community assets, especially those for children and young people, and those with disabilities.

Infrastructure needs and cooperation (CIS3) - working with other agencies to improve infrastructure in Littlemore when developments are planned.

Improvements to the range and quality of local shops and eating places (CIC1) - supporting improved local shopping facilities and places for people to eat and meet.

Improved range of, and access to, recreation opportunities especially for young people (CIC2) - encouraging more and better access to recreation opportunities, especially youth service provision.

Working with businesses and others to promote lifelong learning (CIC3) - supporting schemes where suitable learning opportunities for all residents, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, can be provided.

Natural Environment

Protection of, and access to, green and blue spaces (NES1) - protecting, and creating better access to, the Natural Environment.

Protection of wildlife habitats/ biodiversity (NES2) - protecting specific natural habitats and keeping, or improving, levels of biodiversity.

Tree cover and protection (NES3) - maintaining and where possible increasing the level of tree cover.

Protection of allotments (NES4) - keeping and, where possible, improving the number and quality of allotments.

Natural Environment *continued*

Protecting and enhancing local parks and green spaces (NEC1) - supporting measures to protect and enhance local parks and other green spaces.

Provision of, and safe access to, green spaces (NEC2) - improving access to, and safety in, the Natural Environment.

Community support to protect the Natural Environment (NEC3) - encouraging community initiatives to protect and improve the environment in Littlemore.

Increasing biodiversity and wildlife (NEC4) - supporting measures to increase biodiversity and wildlife while not affecting safety or encouraging litter or fly-tipping.

Transport & Connectivity

Reducing additional car journeys (TCS1) - ensuring that development minimises additional car traffic.

Net improvements in connectivity (TCS2) - supporting development which improves existing connectivity or preserves opportunities for future improvements.

Safe Travel (TCC1) - encouraging measures to make travel safer, especially for children and the elderly.

Cowley Branch Line (TCC2) - supporting opening the CBL to passengers, subject to adequate infrastructure.

Access to Cowley Centre (TCC3) - encouraging measures to improve easier and safe access to Cowley Centre.

Air and Noise Pollution (TCC4) - supporting measures to improve air quality and reduce noise pollution.

Improved Bus Services (TCC5) - encouraging improved bus services, especially to different parts of Oxford.

Discouraging through traffic (TCC6) - trying to discourage non-local traffic from going through Littlemore.

Health and Well-being

Primary health care facilities (HWS1) - supporting development which provides improved, and better access to, primary care e.g. GP surgery, clinics, dentist, pharmacy.

Fostering community cohesion (HWC1) - supporting projects which enhance healthy living and foster community cohesion and making these accessible and affordable to all.

Enhancing the safety of the community (HWC2) - encouraging initiatives which promote community safety and discourage anti-social behaviour.

Addressing poverty and health inequality (HWC3) - encouraging initiatives which seek to alleviate poverty, especially among children, and address inequalities in both physical and mental health.