By Email: Krisztina & Andrew Tredre-Short.  20/07/2015

Thank you for your message advising us of the final version of the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031.

Having now viewed its contents and having followed the various stages of the plan throughout the last couple of years together with previously submitting our detailed thoughts on the subject (these you will have on record), we only wish to write the following at this stage.

The town’s Future.

As there is a need for more local housing, the plan has addressed most subjects in detail. Whether it’ll all work, obviously time will only tell. However, the main focal issues that we most care about and we would urge you to keep as important factors alongside the towns building schemes, are as follows:
(1) General overcrowding of schools, surgeries, roads, transport systems etc. These things need to be dealt with alongside/ before the housing development schemes, otherwise Chipping Norton will become a total upheaval. The importance of new housing, should not outshine the importance of solving these problems which will arise from the significant increase of Chipping Norton’s population.
(2) High Carbon Dioxide Pollution levels, should be a major factor to be considered at all times and solved ideally before the increase of vehicles, brought about by new development in the town.
(3) With Chipping Norton being a historic market town, history will be very difficult to keep in the forefront of all of the new projects to be undertaken. It is important to remember to apply special and sympathetic care at all times with regard to this aspect of the town because it could be very easily over-shadowed in time. It should not only remain intact, but should be uplifted so that it is not swamped with the new. We have things here that are unique to us. There’s even a Medieval Monastery/Chapel in the cellar underneath what was the Post Office. A museum would be wonderful in that currently owned Georgian building. Alongside the enhancement of the town’s history, Tourism should be enhanced & must not be forgotten, otherwise our history will eventually be.

How we’ll be affected personally:

This subject is one which we have to include when commenting on the overall plan for the town. It continues to be something of great concern to both ourselves and neighbours and it is something that we would be grateful for you to keep in mind for future planning.
We live on the outer edge of Brassey Close. Our house and garden are situated a long way beneath Tank Farm where development is likely to take place. The 14 houses in the close, were built in the Old Quarry. The steep quarry sides form a lovely planted bank, in our case, we live beneath part of the steepest side of the quarry which is situated at the bottom of our garden (for a few houses, their part of it is to the side). This bank is landscaped by ourselves and forms an important part of the garden. However, the bank’s original structure, together with the mud in fill applied by the house builder, is only held up by plant roots and a small wall at its base in our garden. There is no other stabilising factor. Building too close to the banks edge, could cause:

1. Flooding in our garden, caused by undrained rainfall etc, running down our bank from the newly developed and largely concreted land above us.
2. Bad drainage problems would cause the bank to become too heavy, thus causing considerable slippage/movement.
3. Subsidence of our property, caused by bad drainage or drilling too close to the banks edge.
4. Light pollution from street lamps or cars, with our bedroom windows in line with the top of the bank.
5. Destroy privacy and security.
6. Potentially damage or prevent access to the town’s water main, which runs directly across the top of the bank (quarry edge), close to our boundary.

We feel that the solution to help solve the above issues, would be for the planners to construct a wide buffer zone between the top of our bank (quarry) boundary edge and any development on Tank Farm. This could take the form of a planted pedestrian pathway running around the top or an area of planted grass/trees or shrubs which would help drainage and all of the potential problems mentioned.

Thank you for taking the time to read our comments.

Yours sincerely,

Krisztina & Andrew Tredre-Short.