

Compton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) March Update

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have completed and returned your survey form, so here's some information about what's been happening up until this point.



Back in January a group of 16 volunteers met for the first time at The Compton Swan and formed the NDP Steering Committee. Our first job was to review and approve the NDP Survey which had been compiled by the Parish Council under the guidance of their appointed Consultant. Initially 650 questionnaires were sent out with the February/March addition of Compilations, one for every household in Compton. Additional copies were available in the Village Shop, and a printable version available to download from the Compton NDP website at <http://www.comptonndp.org.uk>. You could also take the survey on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L7F9PQ8>

You may be asking "What can the Survey hope to achieve?", "Why should I get involved?" "What difference can I make?" "Will West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) take any notice of what we say?"

The point is, this is an opportunity for us to have our say. It's a case of "*Use it or Lose it!*" If we don't have a go at putting forward a Neighbourhood Development Plan, then we only have ourselves to blame if Compton doesn't develop in the way we want it to. You need to be "*in it to win it*" as they say. This is where you come in as it's essential that everyone voices their opinion. The more responses to the survey that we receive, the more representative the resulting plan will be. We intend to ensure that it's not just a few speaking for the many!

So, what do you like and what don't you like about living in Compton? How would you like it to develop? Do you want more housing and if so what sort of housing; social, affordable, perhaps homes for people with connections to Compton, starter homes, retirement homes, small or large developments? Is traffic, speeding, parking a concern to be addressed? Would you like to see more amenities, re-instatement of the cricket ground, playground equipment, an outdoor gym, a meeting place, more footpaths, cycle ways or nature trails? Should the plan identify new sites for the school(s), the surgery, business units. There are endless possibilities, and the steering group could hazard a guess at what those might be, but really, we need you to tell us what you would like to see so we can put forward your views.

Any plan we produce will need to comply with West Berkshire policies and will be subject to external examination. All ideas will be examined but may not be finally included as the Plan cannot affect some areas. Naturally the most popular views must be given the most consideration. Also, there are certain pre-conditions that a Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet and which the steering group are obliged to adhere to, one example being the housing allocation set by WBDC. We cannot recommend less than the number already allocated but if most responses indicate an upper limit in line with the future allocation, then we can propose that.

I hope this gives you an idea of what the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Steering Group are about. The next stage is to analyse the responses from the survey and identify specific areas to target for further investigation in small workgroups. These will present more opportunities for you to get involved. Keep an eye on the website for more information, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and above all, thank you for your time and assistance in this important process.

Your NDP Steering Group