

## The future of Compton – Your Neighbourhood Development Plan update

As previously reported, we have established five working groups to focus on the key themes identified from the survey undertaken last year. In this article we hear on the progress made so far by the Business and Job Opportunities group and the Housing and Development working group.

The group working on business and jobs reports that it has been making good progress. The team has been preparing a list of all businesses of all sizes in Compton and has been pulling together a short business survey, which it is hoped all business managers will be happy to answer.

The aim is to achieve a greater understanding of the businesses in Compton, their needs as well as the future the managers and owners see for their companies in the village.

Team members Chris and Sally are also hoping to get in touch with those living in the village who work from home – the team is keen to discover how many people are working from home in Compton, and how well the village meets the needs for remote working.

The results will be analysed to form a business section of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Chris and Sally will be getting in touch over the next few weeks, so you are warned!

Please send a message to [comptonndpsec@outlook.com](mailto:comptonndpsec@outlook.com) if you are happy to answer a few questions about your company / business or your experience of remote working in Compton.

Meanwhile the Housing and Development group led by David Norbury are similarly focused on fact finding with plenty of data for the group to analyse as it develops its policies. Firstly, the Parish Council commissioned the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) to write a Report on Housing Need in Compton published in November 2016, and secondly the NDP launch survey conducted in spring last year that you, the villagers, responded to in considerable numbers.

Based on information returned in these surveys the group has formulated a vision statement for the section in the NDP covering housing and development as follows: -

***“To provide a range of owned and rented housing of different types, in a sustainable mixed setting of energy efficient quality homes, recreational facilities, green spaces and work places, to suit and be affordable to each demographic, as defined by age and circumstances, and sympathetically designed to protect the rural character of the village.”***

The group are working in the knowledge that the Pirbright Institute site, currently owned by the government agency Homes England, will be sold for development later this year. While at the same time Compton Parish Council is unlikely to receive its Housing Allocation from WBDC before this autumn for the period ending 2036. Consequently, the group is working on the premise that our allocation will be at least 140 new homes

consistent with the West Berkshire Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2013. The SPD envisages a residentially led mixed development of homes, work and green spaces that blend into Compton's rural community.

Whilst the group is well supported, we would like to co-opt ideally a couple of volunteers who are tenants in Housing Association properties in Compton. This would be on a part time basis and not onerous but would be helpful in ensuring that the work we are doing correctly reflects the views of this sector. Comments and enquiries please should be addressed to [comptonndpsec@outlook.com](mailto:comptonndpsec@outlook.com).

**Commented [AG1]:** Does this help – 1 might have a specific opinion but over 2 could be cumbersome.

**Commented [DS2]:** A Volunteer or many?