

Community-led Planning – does it work in urban communities?

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About Oxfordshire

- We are the most rural county in the South East region
- But we also have Oxford City, Banbury and 'growth points' such as Didcot, Grove/Wantage
- Parish and market town action plans have a long history in the rural districts



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Oxfordshire community plans

2006

- ORCC Parish Plan Reference Group established (inc. rural districts and county)
- 59 parish and market town action plans (being) developed
- Gap in Oxford and larger urban areas

2008

- Reference Group now inc. PCT, City Council
- 81 plans (being) developed inc. Oxford
- County Sustainable Community Strategy inc. evidence from community plans and local target



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The county council's role

- With partners, offer 'bridging' opportunities for communities developing plans at all stages – encouraging two way dialogue
- Advice for communities and existing plans are available on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
communityplanning](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communityplanning)
- Support and track engagement of council services with regular reports



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importance we attach to engaging with communities that wish to develop their own plans. Community-led planning allows us to respond to local issues and concerns raised by Oxfordshire's communities while encouraging self-help solutions. Our commitment to working with community plans also supports Charter Mark Criterion 6 – "contribute to improving opportunities and quality of life in the communities you serve".



The Communities Team is working with the [Oxfordshire Rural Community Council \(ORCC\)](#) and the districts to develop a consistent approach to the way we all work with community plans, ensuring that local volunteers receive the best information, advice and support we can give. Robust, well-informed plans outlining local priorities benefit the council as well as communities, helping us shape service delivery to reflect local needs.

The role of the Communities Team - [View the flowchart \(.pdf format, 27 Kb\)](#)

- Maintain an overview of Oxfordshire community plans for the county council.
- Offer general and standard advice to communities throughout the process of developing and implementing their plan.
- Put local volunteers in touch with the right county council contacts for particular issues raised.
- Co-ordinate an overall county council response to published community plans.
- Keep county councillors informed of community plans in their divisions.
- Work with the Rural Community Council and district councils to share good practice and improve communication on community plans.

Monitoring county council engagement with community plans

As part of our monitoring and supporting role, the Communities Team publishes reports showing how well the council is doing in supporting communities that develop their own plans:

- [OCC engagement with community plans - January to September 2007 \(1\) \(.pdf format, 403 Kb\)](#)
- [OCC engagement with community plans - October to December 2007 \(2\) \(.pdf format, 304 Kb\)](#)

Tel: 01865 810133
[Email this team](#)

Latest updates

- The Communities Team - 09 June
- Volunteering opportunities - 05 June
- Working with the district councils - 05 June

Related links

- Department for Local Government and Communities
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
- East Oxford Action
- Oxfordshire Data Observatory
- Oxfordshire Partnership
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- New Economics Foundation
- Oxfordshire network of voluntary and community organisations
- The community planning website

Local intranet



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County role in City project

Facilitate involvement of county services:

- Cowley – school, vulnerable people
- West End – regeneration scheme
- West Oxford – highways, school travel plans, bus/transport review

Comparison to parish plan model:

- Adapt ACRE PP community checklist
- Transfer market towns best practice: Oxfordshire Town Chambers' Network and school youth councils



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Progress continues

- Improved partnership working between agencies in supporting community plans
- Greater numbers of local plans and increasing agency engagement
- Resources for communities and partners – both rural and urban – under pressure
- Commitment to best practice by all

... much has been achieved but more to do!



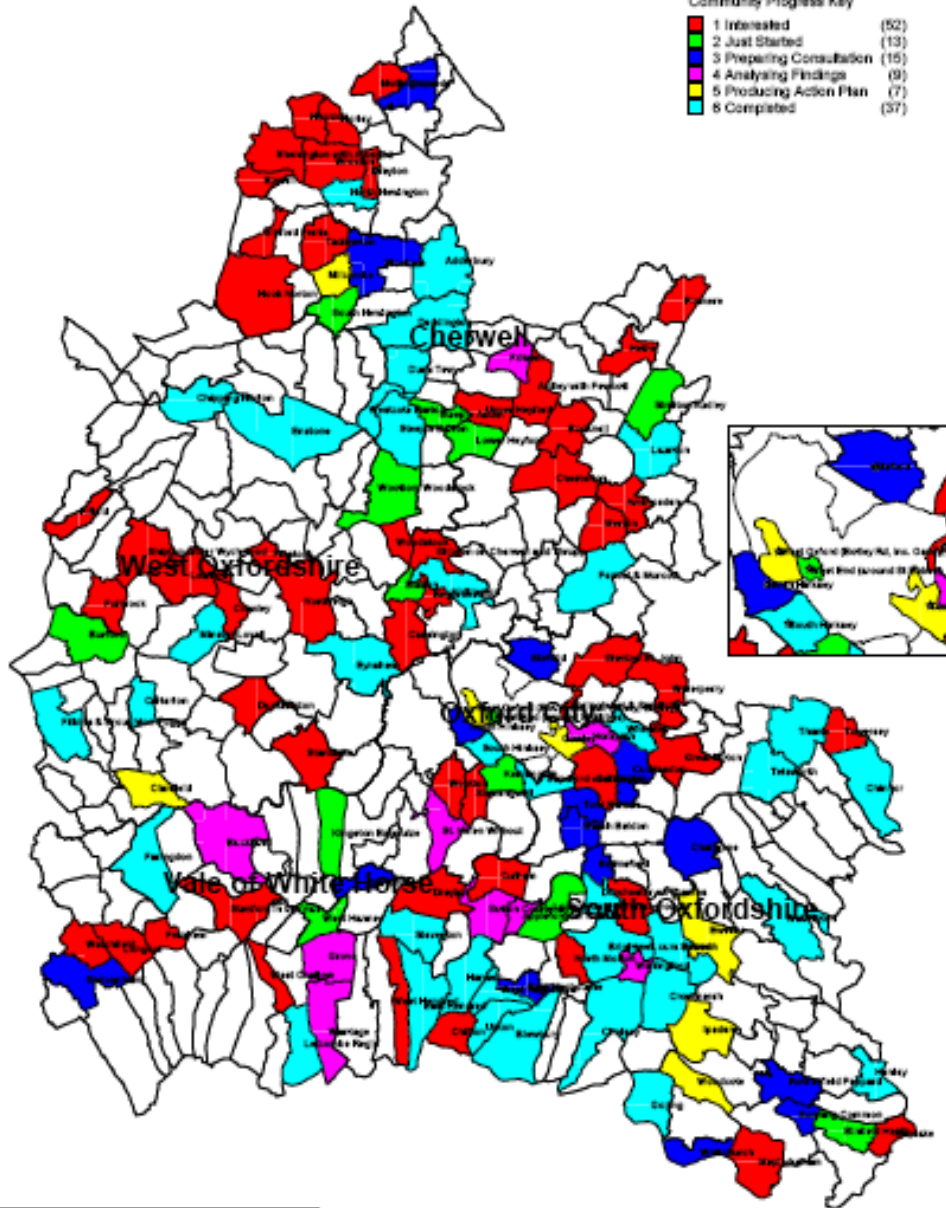
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Community Plans Progress April 2008

Community Progress Key

1 Interested	(52)
2 Just Started	(13)
3 Preparing Consultation	(15)
4 Analysing Findings	(9)
5 Producing Action Plan	(7)
6 Completed	(37)



Map available from www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communityplanning

(based on data provided by ORCC and Oxford City Council)



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