

Summertown & St Margaret's Neighbourhood Plan

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A. Under the Localism Act of 2011, neighbourhoods in towns, cities and countryside in England are able to draw up their own plans which will have legal force.

Q. What is the Summertown & St Margaret's Neighbourhood Plan?

A. The Summertown & St Margaret's Neighbourhood Plan is a land use plan to guide development in the two council wards of Summertown & St Margaret's.

If the Neighbourhood Plan is agreed by the local Referendum on March 7th 2019 it will be a legally binding plan used by the Oxford City Council to guide planning decisions in our neighbourhood

Q. Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan in Summertown & St Margaret's

A. To provide additional protection and improvement to our area, over and above that provided for in the Oxford City Local Plan

Q. What is the Neighbourhood Forum?

A. The Neighbourhood Forum is a voluntary grouping of organisations and individuals from the Summertown and St Margaret's area set up in 2014 specifically for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. There are around 400 people on our mailing list

Q. Who has been consulted on the Plan so far?

A. The Neighbourhood Plan has been in preparation for the past four years and there have been many public meetings, exhibitions and events over those years seeking the views of local people and businesses on the best planning policies for our area. The Plan is based on the results of this consultation

Q. Why are we having a Referendum?

A. The legislation for Neighbourhood Plans says that before a Plan can be formally adopted by the Council it must go out a public Referendum of all those on the Electoral Register in Summertown and St Margaret's. The Referendum will be decided on a straight majority of all those who vote

Q. How will I know about the Referendum and where to vote?

A. The Council will send out voting cards very soon to all electors which will tell you where you can vote on March 7th or how to vote by post

Q. What are main policies and issues in the Neighbourhood Plan?

A. The policies in the Plan cover:

- Protecting the historic character of the area
- Protecting and improving open space and greenery
- Seeking improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to pedestrian
- Controlling air pollution
- Protecting our community centres and local facilities
- Ensuring the continued vitality of Summertown Centre
- Ensuring good design that is compatible with the character of our area in any new developments
- Ensuring a balanced mix of development at Diamond Place in Summertown when that is developed

Q. What about other policies such as on housing and transport?

A. The existing policies of Oxford City Council and the County Council on these matters will apply in our area

Q. What if I have other questions?

A. Please contact us at sstmnfcom@gmail.com if you wish to get further information. Alternatively, the email addresses of the Steering Group can be found on our web site.

The Neighbourhood Plan itself is available in full on our website