

Carterton Master Plan

The master plan was an initiative of the town council that began nearly 12 months ago. Like many of you we have been continually disappointed by the demands placed on Carterton and its wider area from outside, the lack of vision and future planning, and the pressures that we have faced and will continue to face from housing developers. The creation of the master plan has been another positive step forward to try to address these pressures and to help us decide where we, as a community, wish development to take place. Importantly, it looks at what is needed in the wider area to help sustain us all for the next 15 years and beyond. A lot of work and discussions have taken place with key stakeholders to get to where we are now, and we have also had to respond to decisions and new information along the way. Like everything else, the master plan has evolved to respond to the changes that we all see and face today, and its strategy is to phase any future development for the area over the next 15 years and more. The master plan recognises the importance of getting right what we already have before moving forward. This means our roads and infrastructure, our community and medical facilities, our buses, our green spaces, our local job opportunities, our town centre and our overall appearance and perception. These are all things that we hope to achieve in the next 10 years by carrying out further detailed work. The master plan highlights that any future growth which we consider necessary and appropriate for the area should happen beyond this time (2025), and possibly the local plan period (post 2031).

The master plan is not intended to form part of the local development plan as a mechanism for determining planning applications, but sets a vision to help illustrate potential opportunities for future development and how the delivery of new housing should be balanced with a stronger employment base and thriving town centre, as well as the necessary infrastructure to support our local communities. The master plan could form the basis of a future neighbourhood plan for the area, which would guide local development in conjunction with the WODC Local Plan. However, any future neighbourhood plan would require the cooperation of all our neighbouring parishes, and would require extensive consultation and engagement with the community and key stakeholders. We believe the master plan provides a good basis for the start of such discussions. As you can see, there is still a lot of work to be done, and this is your opportunity to tell us your thoughts and reactions, both good and bad, to any future changes for the area. This is the start of a conversation, not the end, and the first step in helping us all to engage in our future.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Carterton Town Council

