

Placemaking Charter

for Oxfordshire

Local authorities, developers and organisations that commit to this charter will practice a Placemaking approach on new housing developments in Oxfordshire



Placemaking is about creating thriving, healthy and socially active communities, designed and led by the unique characteristics of people and place. It takes a grassroots approach to working with residents and partners on a broad range of issues which shape and affect where people live, work and play.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY ARE THE HEART OF PLACEMAKING

Development is not just about houses. It is about community. It is about the people and the place that will shape and create a unique community. Placemaking means bringing people together to achieve positive change using their own enthusiasm, knowledge, skills and lived experience of issues they encounter. It means creating opportunities for communities to control their own futures rather than having it 'done to them'.

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS

Placemaking brings together residents, developers, planners and others in a spirit of genuine collaboration to best meet the needs of the community. Forums will be established on major development sites to facilitate this process. Experience shows that community engagement and grassroots involvement from the early stages of new housing developments has significant positive impacts in building a sense of place, identity and community cohesion.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND TAKING ACTION

The placemaking approach allows people in the community, the developer and other agencies designing and supporting the development to work together on projects to shape and strengthen that place. These projects will reflect what the community wants and will be unique to that place and will help to create, empower and sustain the new community.

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL AND NOT JUST PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure does not just mean roads, power and water. It also means social infrastructure. But we cannot expect thriving new communities to simply 'emerge'. Placemaking means a commitment by developer, local authorities and others to maximise contributions which provide on the ground, community development support.

ACHIEVING POSITIVE, LASTING RESULTS

What's in it for residents?

A thriving neighbourhood, self-confidently playing the lead role in building community on its own terms in line with its changing needs and aspirations.

What's in it for developers?

Facilitated engagement with the community and fewer conflicts and delays.

What's in it for Local Authorities?

Less officer and member time spent in conflict management, and happier communities.