

MEMBERSHIP 2024-25

Your membership helps us support communities in Oxfordshire to continue to be great places to live and work.



CFO helps communities and individuals to identify issues that affect them and find their own solutions. We're here to support you to achieve strong, inclusive, and thriving places to live, work and play.

NEW FOR 2024

Community-led Stewardship Support

Communities have many assets – these include green and open space, woodlands, community buildings, housing, and many others. More and more residents want to be actively involved in stewarding those assets to ensure that local needs and aspirations are front and centre. CFO has assembled a highly experienced Team to help explore opportunities for managing and owning assets – perhaps via a community land trust or development trust.

Visit our dedicated [website](#) or please [get in touch](#) with us for more information.

Rural Housing Enabling Service

In rural communities, the housing market has become divorced from local people and their incomes. Those unable to access homeownership, and with a shrinking stock of social housing, have to turn to the private rented sector, where costs are high and tenancies insecure. With young people and families often priced out of rural communities entirely, and many places struggling to maintain services such as local schools, pubs, and shops, a lack of affordable homes threatens the social fabric of rural life. Via DEFRA funding, CFO can now offer support to help parish and town councils identify small sites for affordable housing development.

Please [get in touch](#) with us for more information.

Society is changing and our communities face ever more complex challenges – the following principles guide CFO's work.

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)

We think that stronger, more sustainable communities are built using the skills and gifts that people already have. ABCD identifies and harnesses existing 'assets' to strengthen and improve things locally. These could be skills, knowledge, capacity, resources, experience or just enthusiasm. ABCD starts with what's already there rather than making judgements about what's lacking.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

The values and practice of CFO are rooted in human rights, social justice, and respect for diversity. In our projects we seek to achieve inclusion, remove barriers to involvement, and challenge racism and discrimination. Equality and inclusion create strong, creative, and dynamic places to live and work – we believe that an ongoing appraisal of how we can further those values is at the heart of CFO's mission.



WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

CFO is a community development charity. We help and support community action projects and volunteering, community halls and shops, transport schemes, and local businesses. We run Neighbourhood Planning, Town Planning and Placemaking consultancies, helping clients including communities and Local Authorities on a range of themes, such as making the most of the complexities of the planning system, identifying infrastructure requirements, and creating strong, inclusive, and thriving communities.

INCLUDED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

Community development,
volunteering and social
action support

Community Reviews

Town Planning
masterclass

Community-led and
affordable housing advice
and support

Network and training
opportunities

Advocating on behalf
of Oxfordshire rural
communities

National voice on rural and
community development
matters

The Oil Scheme gives
members access to many
suppliers, giving the best
prices available

Discounts on fee paying
services:

- Housing Needs Surveys
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Community Infrastructure Assessments





WHAT DO MEMBERS SAY ABOUT WORKING WITH COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE?

"It was a great introduction to a topic I knew almost nothing about and has really opened my eyes to a new way of creating and sustaining projects in the community - and one which makes perfect sense."

FEEDBACK FROM A PARTICIPANT OF OUR ASSET BASED TRAINING

"Thank you so much for all you do to keep us informed and, particularly during the pandemic, your guidance and interpretation of the vast and ever-changing government guidance was absolutely invaluable!"

CHARLBURY CORNER HOUSE AND WAR MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

"CFO has offered us valuable guidance and mentoring throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process. Without them it would have been virtually impossible to reach our objective. We have no hesitation in recommending CFO to any organisation who may require their expertise."

BRIZE NORTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

"Many thanks for all the work you and your team do for our communities. We do appreciate it!"

YARNTON VOLUNTEER DRIVER SCHEME



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