

## Parish Liaison Meeting Jun 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Drop-in session:

### Enforcement

- Spoke with the leader Jane Law
- Issues discussed were the state of Southfield Development and the long-suffering people who are contending with unfinished roads, poorly constructed homes, neighbours who still live beside a site that is a complete mess (Phase 2).
- **Action:** I will email Jane with these concerns, and she will have Building Control, Monitoring and Enforcement look.

### Highways

- Spoke with OCC Highways Officers Andrew Vidovic and Scott ...
- Main question was why a 30 mph zone should not have a central line with reference to the B430. I added that three villages around us have central lines in a 30 mph zone. Answer - a study has been made that drivers are more cautious on an unmarked road. I challenged that thinking and said lorries would charge down the road far too close to the middle if not in it. They referred me to Dave Catling who is well known to us. I mentioned his impossible workload. Shrugged shoulders.
- Action: We should request the study and ask Dave to put this on the bottom of the list (The study is: Ben Hamilton Bailey and he has talked about his ideas on youtube)

### Community First Oxfordshire

- Query was regarding status of NP after being made for two years. Referred us to their Planning Consultant, Stephen Kenna for a chat.
- Action: Phone Stephen McKenna, Community First

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#### A. Overview – Barry Wood

1. Finances – tight budget/ (Peer Review stated that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/7 currently has a gap of £17.8 million. This is considered a serious situation. CDC will need to see a net reduction in expenditure of 45% over the next three years to meet the budget gap). Plan is to review all services and see where they intersect and try to find some savings there. The aim is to follow priorities. This area is seen as a major challenge.
2. Update on the Rural England Prosperity Fund - £525 K for capital projects approved by central government. (We put our names forward for this)

#### B. Environmental Services: (Complements to WotG Parish Council for requesting this info)

1. A comprehensive overview of services found under “Environmental Services” on Cherwell website and include: climate emergency, pest control, fly-tipping, community safety, pollution dogs, street cleansing, neighbour nuisance.

\*major takeaway from this talk is that although Cherwell is doing well with the initiative of special food bins – collect 4,000 tons last year -the same amount is found in the green bin. There is a new initiative this year – collection of coffee pods, people to sign up

\*if one is clearing out the loft – hire an extra large bin

3. Overview of street cleaning and litter picks. Note to parish councils that OCC does drains and CDC does street cleaning. There was an appeal from the public that these services are coordinated.

KEY CONTACTS. Brenden Bodger, Street Cleansing and Paul Devine for dog bins

QUESTIONS:

- a. Fallen trees: contact street cleansing (priority will be given to tree not flat on the ground after a major storm. This categorisation is a safety issue.
  - b. Fast food litter issue: as of 2025 there will be a national ruling for a deposit on drinks containers
  - c. Are the trucks and vans carbon neutral? Currently there are nine small electric vans with five on order. Trucks are still diesel @ £200 K for an eight-year life span. They continue to look for electric truck but now these would take two days to charge. There would be a huge cost to purchasing them and the depot would need to be significantly enlarged for battery charging stations and extra vehicles.
  - d. Question around how many people have been prosecuted? Data not on hand but would revert.
4. Climate Change - CDC's response
    - There is a framework
    - Aim of net zero by 2030
    - Waste collection & leisure centres are the highest consumers of energy (heated pools)
    - Continues to improve biodiversity on sites to aid with reduction of emissions
    - There is support for local businesses to reduce carbon

Request: that parish councils advocate for climate action by management of any buildings under their control, assessment of activities and travel for events including meetings and catering. Would urge councils to reconsider the frequency of cutting grass and lawns

Note: “Connect with Nature” page on CDC website – [monthly activities to support biodiversity](#)

Grant: there is a pot of £3.5 million given to CDC to push forward carbon neutral targets

- One area that is being rolled out: allowing residents to charge their cars in car parks overnight. This would assist those who do not have access to charging by their home or apartment. (pilot in Bicester)

- CDC team is watching a project in Germany that involves hydrogen powered trains

## 5. Planning

Key to this discussion are the slides (not yet available) Key point is that there are national guidelines that must be followed

Key takeaways are:

- a. There are about 3,500 applications per year. At the start of 2023 there was a backlog of 520 and this has now been reduced to 420 (increase of an officer) but there is a national shortage
- b. A year or so ago the role of the duty officer was ended so officers could get through more applications. This didn't work and that role is now reappearing. Their role is to discuss issues but always under the national regulations on planning.
- c. Annoyance of new info on application not being sign posting on the app is being sorted ie. Great Wolf new documents are impossible to find. Use Control F on screen whilst on app
- d. S106 issues, there are discussions on material changes

Questions:

- a. Solar farms? CDC is looking at ways to manage energy and one option is solar farms, but they are aware technology is changing. Less visible are ok but visible are mostly not ok
- b. Unmet housing need from Oxford – CDC is the only district to meet this whilst all other districts have rejected this plea
- c. Housing Supply – the current housing supply is 5.4
- d. Category A villages -the target of 750 is almost met
- e. Local Plan – Before consideration can be given to any new housing applications Regulation 19 must be met which is: consultation phase

Formal notes will be available, and Parish Council will be kept informed.

Webcast can be seen here: [Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting - Wednesday 14 June 2023, 7:05pm - Cherwell District Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

Diane Bohm Chair  
June 2023