**Report on Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting**

The Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting was held virtually on July 30th, 2020.

Key messages from the Leader, Barry Wood:

* The Councillor Priority Fund will have a Covid focus. As a second wave of Covid19 is expected, we will continue to need responders throughout Cherwell. A Well Being Team has been developed to manage the response to the pandemic.
* Financial situation – there has been an increased expenditure of £24 million to 1800 businesses. The district has suffered a serious loss of income from the closure of carparks and leisure activities. Next year’s budget will be lean.
* There is a continuing prospect for local government organisation. It is likely that it will happen – the merging of the District to the County. There will however, be a consultation on the topic.
* There was an insinuation that with a lean budget we should be aware that towns and villages do not have a cap on the rise in the precept whereas the district does.

Key messages from the Director of Health and Well Being: Ansaf Ahar

* Thornhill Park and Ride test centre has/or will move to the Oxford Parkway station. Such moves are managed by central government.
* Are all Fairs off? What about Remembrance Day? Watch for advice from government
* The government is considering increasing the number of people getting the seasonal flu vaccine in preparation for this winter. This is not a vaccine against Covid19 but seems an attempt to keep more people healthy and hence able to resist the worst effects of Covid.

Key messages from the Local Plan Community Involvement Paper and Consultation

  **‘Planning for Cherwell to 2040’.**

**Cherwell\_Local\_Plan\_Review\_2040\_final\_WEB.pdf**

* **Consultation period is from July 31st until September 14th**. Highly controversial issue given that many PC do not meet in August and those who meet in the second half of the month will miss the deadline. However, dates are set, published and will not change although those PC’s with issues should contact the team.
* Key themes are: Maintaining and Developing a Sustainable Local Economy, Meeting the Challenge of climate change, Healthy Place-shaping.
* There is a call for sites (one to watch), an overview of the local context including an in-depth look at the garden towns plus a statement about rural areas and village categorisation (another one to watch and comment on).
* There was a request that there be a ‘read across’ between this development plan and the Transport Plan – which often don’t relate to one another.
* We need to formulate a response and be aware of those topics that directly impact on us
* Part of our job is to make sure that villagers know about this consultation and are encouraged to respond
* Further communication is expected in terms of getting the paper out into the community.

*Full notes from CDC will be available in due course. A web video will also be available.*

Diane Bohm