**WOTG Neighbourhood Plan Report May 1st, 2019**

Our Neighbourhood Plan has now gone to Examination by Mr. Timothy Jones, a barrister who has examined 12 plans and is just concluding two more. He began the examination on April 24th and does not expect it to be a lengthy process.

Cherwell District Council has used the services of “The Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS)” to source two candidates.

Following is an explanation of their services:

*“The Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS) is a cost-efficient service which supports the neighbourhood planning process by providing quick and easy access to impartial and highly qualified examiners on an 'as needed' basis. It also provides clarity on how much an examination will cost.*

*What is NPIERS?*

*Communities are able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local area, putting in place planning policies for the future development and growth of the neighbourhood. This puts communities centre-stage, encouraging collaboration on planning at the neighbourhood level.*

*A number of industry bodies came together to develop the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS) which provides access to expert, impartial examiners when needed and is designed to support communities through this process. This resource has been designed by the following organisations, with support from the*[*Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)*](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government)*:*

* *Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)*
* [*Planning Officers Society*](http://www.planningofficers.org.uk/)*(POS)*
* [*Royal Town Planning Institute*](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/)*(RTPI)*
* [*Action with Communities in Rural England*](http://www.acre.org.uk/)*(ACRE)*
* [*Locality*](http://locality.org.uk/)

*Communities and local authorities can make applications to NPIERS free of charge to obtain an Independent Examiner from a panel of highly competent professionals. We use professionals who are highly qualified and regulated by professional bodies.”*

The results of the examination would be one of three options: accept, accept with conditions, reject. The Examiner will visit the village, incognito – good luck with that! He will want to walk the boundaries and see the planning issues.

We now all hold our collective breath.

Diane Bohm, Chair