

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION:

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Cassington Neighbourhood Plan 2040 – Regulation 16 Draft

**This report sets out Oxfordshire County Council's view on the Draft
Cassington Neighbourhood Plan 2040**

Annexes to the report contain officer advice.

Strategic Planning Comments

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) supports in principle the ambition of Cassington Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and we welcome the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 16 plan.

We note that the Plan makes no allocations for housing, but Policy CAS9 makes provision for infill development. We also note the proximity to the strategic housing allocations of Salt Cross Garden Village and West Eynsham, policies EW1 and EW2 respectively in the adopted West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

OCC previously provided comment on the Regulation 14 draft plan in February 2022 and pleased to note that most of our comments have been addressed. However, we reiterate our request that St Peters School playing field and surrounding land associated with the school be removed from the Policy CAS1 designation. Designation of this land could hinder OCCs future ability to secure planning permission for future expansion of school facilities which would prevent the education authority from carrying out its statutory duties. Please see previous comments and those below.

Further, we suggest the inclusion of a policy to ensure conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

We support the encouragement of active and sustainable travel in accordance with OCCs Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

Detailed officer comments from Transport, Education, Property and Estates and archaeology are set out in Annex 1. Previous comments have also been made by OCC Minerals and Waste and Infrastructure teams to the Regulation 14 Draft.

Officer's Name: Helen Gosnell-Whyman

Officer's Title: Planner

Date: 31 October 2022

ANNEX 1
OFFICER ADVICE

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Cassington Neighbourhood Plan – Reg16 Submission Draft

Team: Cherwell & West Locality Infrastructure Team

Officer's Name: Natalie Moore

Officer's Title: Interim Senior Transport Planner

Date: Friday 14th October 2022

Transport Comments

LTCP Policies

Comments from this Neighbourhood Plan submission have been taken into consideration regarding how they relate to the vision, themes and policies within Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

Policy CAS2:

We support Cassington Parish Council's policy to encourage active and sustainable travel by protecting (and in cases enhancing) the existing network, as well as insisting that any new developments within the parish (or in the vicinity) are connected to the rest of the community through adequate walking and cycling provision to sustain and boost the network.

The County Council understands that a comprehensive cycle and walking network are fundamental to successfully increasing their usage.

All new developments will be assessed on their provision of walking and cycling links. Where pedestrian and cycle links relevant to a new development are poor and / or require upgrading, OCC officers will typically request developers to provide / upgrade the infrastructure.

Local Infrastructure Improvements

In relation to Local Infrastructure Improvements not listed on the current A40 HIF2 Infrastructure Scheme List, the Parish Council are encouraged to work with the County Council to develop the details of the scheme, i.e., costs, engineering, etc so as when the opportunity arises to request / bid for funding, a scheme is ready to be submitted to aid Section 106 negotiations.

Whilst it is important to include transport schemes within this document, to give the best chance of attracting funding, it is equally important to note that any scheme funded by developer contributions must meet the following tests:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms,
- Directly related to the development; and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Any mitigation measures arising from an increase in traffic as a result of developments within or surrounding the village, will also require evidence to support the perception that the existing road / junction is unsafe (to warrant developer contributions that meet the necessary tests).

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Cassington Neighbourhood Plan – Reg16 Submission Draft

Team: Access to Learning

Officer's Name: Louise Heavey

Officer's Title: Access to Learning Information Analyst

Date: 12/10/2022

Education Comments

St Peter's Primary School in Cassington is currently operating close to capacity, but given generally lower birth rates in recent years and planned new schools to serve the housing growth in Eynsham, there is no expectation at this time that St Peter's would need to expand.

With reference to secondary capacity, Bartholomew Secondary School has previously expanded to the limit the Trust considers compatible with their site area, which comprises a constrained main site and a detached sports pitch. The Garden Village development next to Eynsham will require significant additional capacity, and the Trust has applied to the Regional Schools Commissioner to expand onto a satellite site within the Garden Village, the timing of which will depend on the delivery of the related housing.

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Cassington Neighbourhood Plan – Reg16 Submission Draft

Team: Oxfordshire County Council Estates & Strategy

Officer's Name: Jeremy Flawn

Officer's Title: Partner, Bluestone Planning acting for OCC

Date: 14th October 2022

Property & Estates Comments

OCC Property notes that the County Council-owned playing field for St Peters School is proposed to be afforded special protection under Neighbourhood Plan Policy CAS1 (Cassington Nature Recovery Network). The playing field is classified as “other important open space”.

Please refer to our previous comments dated 4th February 2022. OCC Estates requests that the playing field and surrounding land associated with the school be removed from the Policy CAS1 designation. The playing field land is in public ownership and the County Council is a responsible landowner. Designating the land in this way could unnecessarily lead to difficulties in securing planning permission to expand the school facilities in the future if needed, thus preventing the education authority from carrying out its statutory duties at the school site.

The school is already at full capacity and options for its expansion are currently being considered; this may include expansion on-site. Any policy designation affecting the playing field site should not restrict the ability of the school to expand to meet the needs of the local community.

With regards to the meadows that are owned by OCC Property and are located to the south west of the NP area, please refer to our 4th February comments.

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Cassington Neighbourhood Plan – Reg16 Submission Draft

Team: Archaeology

Officer's Name: Richard Oram

Officer's Title: Lead Archaeologist

Date: 19-10-22

Archaeology Comments

Although the neighbourhood plan highlights the heritage of Cassington there is no specific policy relating to the preservation and enhancement of the parishes heritage assets.

We would therefore recommend that the Neighbourhood Plan is amended to include a specific policy on the historic environment as set out below:

Policy - Historic Environment

The parish's designated historic heritage assets and their settings, both above and below ground including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas will be conserved and enhanced for their historic significance and their important contribution to local distinctiveness, character and sense of place.

Proposals for development that affect non-designated historic assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021).