

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION:

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031 (Submission Version)

This report sets out Oxfordshire County Council's view on the submission version of the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031.

Annexes to the report contain officer advice.

Overall View of Oxfordshire County Council

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) supports in principle the ambition of Charlbury Town Council to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan. OCC provided comments on the Draft Plan in October 2019 and this response should be read in conjunction with those comments.

We welcome changes made in line with OCC's previous comments and note that a number of policies have been updated, including CH1, CH2, ECT9 and ECT10. We also welcome references made to LTP4 and the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Parking is highlighted as a key concern for the Plan however, policy ECT1 does not state that new developments must address the parking concerns of the town or support alternative modes of transport to facilitate the service centre role of the town. The Plan also needs to note that any scheme that is 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.

Please see detailed officer comments below.

Officer's Name: Helen Whyman

Officer's Title: Planner

Date: 21 October 2020

ANNEX 1

OFFICER ADVICE

Team: Transport Development Control

Officer's Name: Tom Plant

Officer's Title: Area Liaison Officer

Date: 12/10/2020

Comments

Section 6: Economy, Community, Transport and Movement

ECT1 - Rural service centre role

- Parking highlighted as a main concern of the town.
- The policy does not state that new developments must address the parking concerns of the town or that the policy supports alternative modes of transport to facilitate the service centre role of the town.

ECT2 – Protecting retail, employment and services.

- Not directly relatable to Transport Development Control, other than applications will be assessed based upon their merits.

ECT3 – Home working

- Agreed.

ECT4 – Sustainable Tourism

- Agreed.

ECT5 – Protection of Community Facilities

- Agreed.

ECT6 - Children's plays areas.

- No reference made to safe and suitable pedestrian / cycle routes to play areas.

ECT7 - Parking

- Policy requires that all development must make adequate provision for onsite parking by residents and visitors. This will be assessed at time of planning application by Transport Development Control.
- Policy requires that where applications are made for extension / alteration, they must not result in net reduction in parking. This will be assessed at time of planning application by Transport Development Control.

ETC8 - Station car park

- The expansion of the Station Car Park is outside the control of Town, District and County Councils. This is for Network Rail (presumed owner) to pursue. The extent of the highway is Forest Road only.

ECT9 - Walking and cycling

- Support OCC comments made in October 2019

ECT10 - Easy access for all

- Applications will be considered by Transport Development Control at application stage, assessing what is required to make road and pavement adoptable.

ECT11 - Public transport

- Scope for developments to enhance public transport links only applicable to developments of 10 or more units
- Community Aspiration 5 will need to meet the developer contribution 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

ECT12 – Electric vehicle charging points.

- Agreed.

Community Aspiration 6

- Note that monies are unlikely to come from County on this where request does not meet contribution tests.

ECT13 - Sturt Road and The Slade

- Evidence is required to support policy.

ECT14 - Safe travel to school

- Agreed

ECT15 - Enstone Road Crossroads

- Evidence is required to support this policy that the existing junction is unsafe in order to warrant developer contributions that meet the necessary tests.

Community Aspiration 8: Improving Pedestrian and Traffic Safety.

- Agreed.
- Compromise may be necessary with regard to improvements and the Cotswolds AONB, such as requirements to make traffic calming or crossing points safe, with the use of lighting and signage.

Team: Cherwell and West Infrastructure Locality

Officer's Name: Natalie Moore

Officer's Title: Transport Planner

Date: 07/10/2020

Comments

LTP4 Policies

Comments from the draft Neighbourhood Plan submission in October 2019 have been taken into consideration regarding the inclusion of references to OCC transport policies.

Transport Schemes

Transport schemes that were put forward to the second tranche of the active travel fund but unfortunately, could not be taken forward have been included as part of policy and within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) of this Neighbourhood Plan. It is important to include them within this document, to give the best chance of attracting funding. However, it is equally important to reiterate the comments from the previous submission in October 2019 that any scheme that is 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.

Policy ECT9: Walking and Cycling

OCC supports Charlbury Town Council's ambition to ensure all new developments are connected to the rest of the community through adequate walking and cycling provision. Where pedestrian and cycle links relevant to a development are poor, OCC typically requests developers to upgrade links directly or indirectly (through Section 106). All new developments are assessed on their provision of walking and cycling links.

Team: Archaeology
Officer's Name: Richard Oram
Officer's Title: Lead Archaeologist
Date: 30/09/20

Comments

This plan sets out a through and comprehensive description of the historic environment assets and constraints within the town and includes appropriate and well considered policies for dealing with them.

We therefore have no further comments to make on this plan.