**SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View**

**(Or What The Council Is Doing)**

***June 2019.***

**Chinnor Ward Specific.**

The new Administration continues to consider its options with regard to our submitted Local Plan 2011-2034 and recently, officers provided a report setting out four options ranging from continue as submitted to withdraw and start again from scratch. Prior to discussion, this was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee with one day’s window for reading and review, and as Chair Ian expressed strong concerns regarding this lack of adequate of preparation for submission.All Committee members shared this view and after questions adjourned the meeting which will be reconvened on 2nd July, 6:30 PM at Milton Park with additional documentation supporting the report.

The report suggests all but the first Option proposed, Continue As Planned, may have implications for Chinnor, with reduced protection from speculative applications and appeals. Firstly we have heard from CPRE that they consider Core Strategy 2012-2034 to be a valid plan, which is already in place. Whilst we would not question their expertise in their field, this assertion has not so far found support from Planning Inspectors at appeal, who have consistently given lesser weight due to the age of the Core Strategy even when the 5 Year Land Supply has been met.

Secondly, we are informed that any option other that Option 1 results in a high risk that the Growth Deal and Housing Infra-structure Funding agreed by the government will be withdrawn. Whilst we do not expect either of these two agreements to directly impact on Chinnor Ward, it means less money for the roads, schools and other infrastructure across the County which will have a knock-on effect.

There are other potential impacts which are documented in more detail in the Reports which are available on the web site for you to review which, in view of the importance of this matter, we urge you to do, and you may like to attend Full Council and make a statement when the Administration bring it forward. Or as we have suggested previously if the ward Parish councils have concerns about this review this could be made in writing, to use should any future developments be made. This underlines the importance of the Neighbourhood Plans and the need for regular review. Recently, our MP, John Howell, wrote to all Parish Councils advising them that a Neighbourhood Plan would not be automatically ‘out of date’ if the Local Plan is withdrawn. This is because of the three provisions introduced by Gavin Barwell’s statement in December 2016, later enshrined in the NPPF under Paragraph 14, with the addition of Condition d regarding Housing Delivery.

There is no issue with John Howell’s statement but there are a number of points to bear in mind when relying on the sole protection of an NDP. The first being the age of the Plan and the position regarding review. As illustration, looking at the Chinnor NDP, adopted in September 2017, assuming the current review had not been started, could be regarded as ‘out of date’ by a Planning Inspector from the end of August 2019.

Much would depend on the Inspector’s view on which of the various methods used to calculate to Land Supply. At this time, our calculation shows over 9 years, (see below) but by some calculations, at worst just over 3 years. Appeals have shown that there is no great consistency in the method of calculation used, as demonstrated in the case of SODC in 2016, where at Appeal for Greyhound Walk in Thame, the Secretary of State found that we had a 5 year land supply. In June later that year, two separate inspectors found we did not, and their view was up-held. Please remember that much of the development that gives this healthy Land Supply comes from speculative development agreed at appeal, (much from Chinnor) and that this type of contribtion will reduce now that SODC has a greater degree of planning control. In this circumstance Chinnor would be vulnerable from September 2019 when this two year provision ends.

Fortunately, Chinnor started a review to take into account the moving goal posts resulting from legislation, Appeals and High Court Rulings, and this is likely to be signed off before the NDP Protection expires. In general terms, in the absence of a review, or a made NDP, there would be a significantly increased risk of more unplanned development for the 18 or so months the work would have taken, if the plan is withdrawn.

Please remember that the present iteration of Local Plan 2011-2034 has been prepared using the best Legal Advice available in consultation with the Ministry and the Planning Inspectorate, and housing numbers were not ‘added for luck’ as recently suggested by a Cabinet Member on Radio Oxford's David Prever Show!

**Other Ward Matters**

Within the Ward, we continue to deal with advice to residents on planning matters, both on a specific and broader spectrum. The biggest issue being raised by a number is the layout of the new junction at the Bloor Homes site on the Thame Road. Highways matters are dealt with by the County Council and we are assured that this junction is designed to the required standards. Questions and observations should be addressed to County as the District council is bound to follow their requirements.

We don’t yet know the extent to which grant money, and specifically continuation of the Councillor Grant Scheme, are planned. We will let you know once we have this information, but for both of us, it is nice to see that the grant funds that we have been able to support are realising benefits. Examples being the up-grade of the driveway at the Methodist Hall to improve access, refurbishment of the tennis courts, up-grade to (money saving) energy efficient lighting at the Village Hall, provision of net fencing at the Community Pavillion and upgraded equipment at the Village Centre.

**Housing and land supply statement**

We've published our housing and land supply statement, which gives details of our strong land supply position to help inform decisions on new planning applications.

The statement includes two supply projections:

* against our housing need without a new local plan in place - this provides an annual housing need of 632 homes (using government's new standard method) and gives us a housing land supply for 9.75 years
* against the housing targets set out in our Local Plan - this provides an annual housing need of 775 homes with an additional 495 homes a year added to help meet Oxford's housing need and gives us a housing land supply for 5.17 years

You can see the full statement on our [website](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWtoc0N6M1lrejhRT1doWXRHSGJBTzZOMzkyNTk5QXZhNlViOFZJUWF5eDVINnlZZVNNK3R1bGNDZW5UMTFERmptRGt3dGRvMTlpK2JQd01Va29LcG5MN3BzWm1rZHUvM3A5WEdzanNnYXY5cmJ4b01YakdtaWJZTWkzdlBONmVqeGoyMjBQbkxsalpDM2dBK2NEMXdWeWFjTTR2ZjlZY0RqdGk0L2pnPT0/UlJ3ckZnPT0) at

<https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWtoc0N6M1lrejhRT1doWXRHSGJBTzZOMzkyNTk5QXZhNlViOFZJUWF5eDVINnlZZVNNK3R1bGNDZW5UMTFERmptRGt3dGRvMTlpK2JQd01Va29LcG5MN3BzWm1rZHUvM3A5WEdzanNnYXY5cmJ4b01YakdtaWJZTWkzdlBONmVqeGoyMjBQbkxsalpDM2dBK2NEMXdWeWFjTTR2ZjlZY0RqdGk0L2pnPT0/UlJ3ckZnPT0>

**Neighbourhood Plan update**

Publicity periods for the following pre-submission consultations are currently taking place:

* [Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan Review](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWtoc0N6M1lrejhRT1doWXRHSGJBTzZOMzkyNTk5QXZhNlViOFZJUWF5eDVINnlZZVNNK3R1bGNDZW5UMTFERmptRGt3dGRvMTlpK2JQd01Va29LcG5MN3BzWm1rZHUvM3A5WEdzanNnYXY5cmJ4b0lIbHlPdWFwb3l3UFRTNitteWl5eWxQR0Nrd1pDeG14S2FFeFpXMzdzYit2bnJPY0gvdURVK3pnPT0/UlJ3ckZnPT0) - ends 5 July
* [Ewelme Neighbourhood Plan](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWtoc0N6M1lrejhRT1doWXRHSGJBTzZOMzkyNTk5QXZhNlViOFZJUWF5eDVINnlZZVNNK3R1bGNDZW5UMTFERmptRGt3dGRvMTlpK2JQd01Va29LcG5MN3BzWm1rZHUvM3A5WEdzanNnYXY5cmJ4b0lIbHlPdWFwb3l3UFRTNitteWl5eWxQR0NreDQrOW1SR1FURlZkMDdVVThQVHhQdHY0dUQ1M2t3PT0/UlJ3ckZnPT0) - ends 17 July

Goring will be holding a referendum on their [Neighbourhood Plan](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWtoc0N6M1lrejhRT1doWXRHSGJBTzZOMzkyNTk5QXZhNlViOFZJUWF5eDVINnlZZVNNK3R1bGNDZW5UMTFERmptRGt3dGRvMTlpK2JQd01Va29LcG5MN3BzWm1rZHUvM3A5WEdzanNnYXY5cmJ4b0lIbHlPdWFwb3l3UFRTNitteWl5eWxQR0NreFplcW5CS1NURlZkMDdVVThQVHhQdHY0dUQ1M2t3PT0/UlJ3ckZnPT0) on 4 July.

**Transport South East consultation**

The government is looking at creating a statutory local transport body called Transport South East.

The new body would be able to directly influence the government's decisions on transport issues and help deliver their strategy.  As part of its proposals, the government is consulting on two documents:

* [Background context - quick guide on becoming a statutory body](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFlvMnZoNktnSkJjQnE0TzlJZnkwWm84QXVuOVI3c1VJMEcrMElYNTNZTFpmK2hsbHQzU21uZG1EMVRoRGtKdWNJMXZrZU9XMThRaXZyY2pJN0luYnlvPQ/UlJ3ckZnPT0) at

https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFlvMnZoNktnSkJjQnE0TzlJZnkwWm84QXVuOVI3c1VJMEcrMElYNTNZTFpmK2hsbHQzU21uZG1EMVRoRGtKdWNJMXZrZU9XMThRaXZyY2pJN0luYnlvPQ/UlJ3ckZnPT0

* [Draft proposal for consultation](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFlrenFGNmRncEJlRUtjWnFKRDEyY1lnV1BEeVY3aFVPQnFwa0lTMXpJeUJicVZla2NpVGkySnFFazJsQmtveFBOUjBnSyt4emNVNXBPTkxJSzQzTzBFT3RQWDB0bWJ6a2RjWnBkak94SW9OakdtbFo1czB4L0RKNWZuMmxDN3FJbmZ0blp5MHlFdz0/UlJ3ckZnPT0) at

https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFlrenFGNmRncEJlRUtjWnFKRDEyY1lnV1BEeVY3aFVPQnFwa0lTMXpJeUJicVZla2NpVGkySnFFazJsQmtveFBOUjBnSyt4emNVNXBPTkxJSzQzTzBFT3RQWDB0bWJ6a2RjWnBkak94SW9OakdtbFo1czB4L0RKNWZuMmxDN3FJbmZ0blp5MHlFdz0/UlJ3ckZnPT0

If you would like to feed into our responses to the consultation, please contact the South Planning Policy team at Planning.Policy@southoxon.gov.uk by 8 July.

**OVO Energy Women’s Tour success**

The rain held off for Women's Tour on 12 June and we had crowds of onlookers and school children gathering all along the route to watch the elite cyclists taking part in the race.

Before the race day, several of our teams worked with the other district councils, the county council and the race organisers to plan, promote and prepare for the race.  Our teams also worked with Saba and Biffa to ensure Henley's Grey's Road car park was temporarily transformed into a Cycle Village for the competing teams and the town's roads and routes were clear of waste bins and collection vehicles.

You can see the excitement and spectacle in our [collection](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFkwMHZnS1MzcDVLSGFvRXFKRDEyY1lsSHZud1RmVUxFQ3FWbG82a25OcVFVYkpBeHB2Tg/UlJ3ckZnPT0) of photographs and videos taken on the day at https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFkwMHZnS1MzcDVLSGFvRXFKRDEyY1lsSHZud1RmVUxFQ3FWbG82a25OcVFVYkpBeHB2Tg/UlJ3ckZnPT0

The race organisers have provided us with a spectator survey to help shape their economic impact report for Oxfordshire and the whole tour.  The more people that complete the survey, the more meaningful the report is, so please take part and share the link as widely as possible - [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2019WomensTour](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFlrenFGNktoWTFZRjdFTTZaM3gwWkI5RlBLN1Y3RklKVURqa3RQdS80YWJlK1I1dDhhSWlnPT0/UlJ3ckZnPT0)

**Anti-idling campaign launched**

We've launched a new anti-idling campaign, called [Turn it off](https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE9JL056WjJ1WFVTQWtoc0N6M1lrejhRT1doWXRHRTZZRjhKTDIwY2MwR091N1Y3RklJeHFqekl1ang0K1FNUT09/UlJ3ckZnPT0), to help improve air quality in our districts.  The campaign aims to educate residents about unnecessary air pollution caused by leaving car engines idling - our message is that if you've stopped for a minute or more, then turn off your engine for cleaner air - especially in built up areas.

The Environmental Services team took the campaign to Henley and Abingdon on Clean Air Day - 20 June.  Over the coming months, the team will be doing some further promotion around in our districts - we'll keep you up to date when these are planned.

If you'd like to discuss promoting it at a particular venue or you'd like some campaign posters and stickers, please do let us know.

 **£100,000 to tackle air quality issues**

We've allocated £100,000 to help tackle air quality issues in our district.  We're working on a number of projects including studies to install more electric charging points in our car parks and will be running the 'anti-idling' campaign to encourage drivers to switch off their engines whilst parked or waiting at traffic lights as highlighted above.

Funds have also been made available to support town and parish councils to address air quality issues including known trouble spots in Wallingford, Henley and Watlington.

If you know of a project that we could help fund, please contact the environment health team.

env.health@southandvale.gov.uk

**Safe Places scheme**

The Safe Places scheme continues to expand in the district. Registered Safe Places offer support to vulnerable people feeling scared or at risk by providing assistance and by calling a family member, carer or emergency services.

There are now 56 Safe Places in our district, which are easily identified by a logo displayed on shop-front windows. To see all the locations of the scheme, visit the Safe Places website.

https://www.safeplaces.org.uk/

Editor - Cllr Ian White (Ian.White@southoxon.gov.uk) Twitter feed: @IanWhite\_DC and

Cllr Lynn Lloyd (lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk)