

At a meeting of the Begbroke Parish Council held at The Village Hall, Begbroke on the 7th March 1973

Present.

Mr J. Minch - Chairman
 Mrs. P. J. Cadd Mr F. A. Hovey
 Mrs Gay Mrs Hill

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December 1972 were read, and were confirmed by the Chairman.

Arising on Minutes.

Bus Stops. It was reported that the County Council hoped to deal with this problem in the surface dressing season.

Culvert and ditch opposite Sun. P.H. The Area Surveyor had promised to investigate this complaint.

Roadside footpath to Langford Lane Junction. The Area Surveyor hoped to provide the improvement requested.

B.R. Begbroke to Bladon. The Clerk reported that he had not yet received a reply from Ronghley R.D.C. and he was asked to get in touch with Ronghley for more information.

A34 Dual Carriageway. The Chairman reported a letter from the County Council stating that consideration was being given to the improvement of junctions along the whole of the dual carriageway but this would take some time. The proposal for flexible barriers was being discussed with the farmers concerned. A report was enclosed on the investigations into the 50 MPH speed limit which indicated that the criteria for such a speed limit was not met. The Chairman stated that the Sub-Committee was meeting Yarnston Parish Council in April with a view to joint action and it was proposed to challenge the County Council's ruling on a speed limit on the length of road between Langford Lane and the Grapes P.H.

Bus Shelters. The Chairman reported that Mr Cook had agreed to keep the Shelters clean.

Ellis Ashton Trust. The Chairman reported that a grant of £15 for assistance had been made by the Trustees.

Churchyard. It was agreed in principle to make a grant of £20 per annum towards the upkeep of the Churchyard Tree planting year. The Chairman referred to a County Circular on tree planting this year and it was agreed to ask for suggestions from the W.I and Annual Parish Meeting.

Street Lighting. Annual Tariff etc. It was agreed to inform the Southern Electricity Board that the Council agreed to Tariff 2 if this was in agreement with the majority of lighting authorities off Danhill Road. The Clerk reported a letter from the Southern Electricity Board regarding unauthorised connection of street lights on this site. It was agreed to ask for five lights to be disconnected and the quarterly account amended, and for the Council to be informed before any further lights are connected and lit.

Springhill Road. The Chairman reported he had received a letter from the Rev. Walsh of St Philips Priory complaining of the lack of lighting in Springhill Road. It was agreed that the matter be noted for attention when the trunk road lighting is installed.

Oxford Airport. The Council's representatives reported on the recent meeting to discuss the possible occasional use of the Airport by Small Executive Jet Aircraft. The Manager outlined the conditions under which it was possible for jets to land. Some doubts were expressed about the safety aspects of the use of jets, but on the whole the meeting was satisfied with the Company's proposals for jets and the noise factor.

The Clerk reported a letter from the newly created Oxford Airport Noise Abatement Group formed as a result of the increasing noise caused by aircraft using the Airport. In the circumstances it was agreed that the letter be noted.

The Chairman mentioned that a complaint had been made about the noise from a helicopter.

Planning Applications

Mrs. H.F. Elox	To site one caravan on the premises	No observations.
Cheriton Service Station.		
B. Warman	Provision of garage	No observations
8 Begbroke Crescent		
Merton College	Construction of covered cattle yard, milking parlour and dairy at Hall Farm	No observations
Oxford		
P.G. Hurrefair Ltd	8 semi detached houses & garages	
St Johns Road	1 detached house & garage	
Harrow.	7 terraced houses & integral garages.	
Phase II Old Quarry Site		

Strongly object on the 8 grounds put forward in respect of previous application plus the following

Object to terraced houses - out of keeping with village

No School facilities in Begbroke

Pedestrian access only to Begbroke Lane with posts to prevent use by cars

Total area in excess of 3 acres - play space should be provided

New Reliable Valuation List. The Chairman stated a copy was available for inspection.

O.A.P.C. The quarterly papers were available for inspection, including a circular on V.A.T.

Bulk Refuse The Chairman stated that an Application Houghley R.D.C. would arrange to collect Bulk Refuse.

Village Hall Committee. It was stated that funds were being raised for a slide for the children and it was agreed to make a contribution not exceeding £60 towards the cost.

Re-Building fund. It was agreed that this matter should be considered in due course at a later meeting.

Accounts Resolved that the following accounts be paid:-

Southern Electricity Board to 31/12/72	£6-45
Audit Stamp 1971/2	£2-00
Clerks Salary 22/2/73	£5-00

E.A. Dorsey 22/5/73.
Chairman

At the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for the Parish of Begbroke held at the Village Hall, Begbroke on the 20th March 1973.

Present.

Mr J. Welch - Chairman

Mr Hill, Mr. Hovey Mr Cadd members of the Parish Council and some 40 Local Government Electors

Apology from Mrs Gay

Mrs. Patching & Mr Redfern

Minutes. The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14th March 1972 were read and were confirmed by the Chairman.
Chairman's Report.

The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting and reported on the work of the Council over the past year. He mentioned the following matters and answered questions.

A34 These new Councillors, including two ladies, had ^{been} elected. The County Council had now extended the length of road to be lit from Kirtree Roundabout to Woodstock. The central hedges had been trimmed. The Bus shelter had received more attention. The roof had been damaged and a roadside seat broken and removed. Kidlington Airport. Meetings had been attended and from explanations given by C.E. the position should not get any worse. The Noise Abatement Society had not received any support for their complaints.

Best kept Village. He congratulated the village on being 'runner up' and this also applied to the Churchyard which was also a runner up in that section.

A34 Action Committee. Mr Perry gave a report of the work of the action committee over the last twelve months. Nothing positive had happened over street lighting. Mr Neil Martin MP. had been contacted. The request for a 50 MPH speed limit had been turned down as it did not meet the planning criteria. A request had now been made for a speed limit from Langford Lane to the Grapes. This length of road should meet the criteria. A survey of all road junctions was being undertaken by the County Council and it was possible some would be closed. Further meetings were being held with Hamton Parish Council.

Mr. Cadd thought an underpass and check to traffic more necessary.
Rev. Mr. Cunn thanked the Committee for the work they were doing.

Street Lighting. The Rev. P. Walsh of the Priory sent a letter requesting more lights in Springhill road. It was agreed no action be taken until the trunk road lighting had been installed on A34.

Refuse tipping in Begbroke Lane. Complaints were made that rubbish had been dumped in the hedge and ditch. It was agreed that residents should be made aware that, on request, Ploynhley R.D.C. would arrange to collect unwanted bulky rubbish.

Burk Kept Village Competition. It was agreed to enter this competition this year.

Footpaths. Complaints were registered about the condition of some footpaths the culvert near the Sun P.H. and the bus stops. It was agreed to write to the Area Surveyor, from the Parish meeting, about these matters. It was agreed to write to Ploynhley R.D.C. once again about the condition of 30, Fernhill Road.

Playground Equipment. A request was made for a grant by the Council towards some new equipment and the Chairman said the Parish Council would consider this.

Pollution of stream. The Chairman stated this stream had been inspected by the Thames Conservancy and it had cleared itself.

D.A. Dorey 20.3.74.
Chairman.

At the Annual Meeting of the Begbroke Parish Council held at the Village Hall on the 23rd May 1973.

Present.

Mr. J. A. Florey

Mrs. Gay

Mrs. Hill

Mr. J. Which

Apology from Mr Cadd.

Appointment of Chairman. Mr Which explained he was unable to carry on as Chairman and it was proposed by Mr Which seconded by Mrs Hill and agreed that Mr Florey be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman. It was proposed seconded and agreed that Mr Which be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr Florey thanked Mr Which for the work he had carried out as Chairman.

Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th March 1973 were read and were confirmed by the Chairman.

Arising on Minutes

BR Begbroke to Bladen. The Clerk was requested to write to Playlley once again asking the present position.

Footpath to Langford Lane. It was reported the work had been completed. The Clerk was asked to contact the Area Surveyor about the condition of Sandhill road, the footpath in Denbille Road, the replacement of trees near the Bus Shelter and the result of the investigation into the condition of the culvert and ditch opposite the Sun Public House.

A34 Dual Carriageway. It was reported that the Sub Committee had met Yarnon Parish Council and explained the action which had been taken and was being taken regarding a 50MPH Speed limit, including the suggestion that the funding criteria was met on the length of road from Langford

Lane to Pear tree roundabout a distance of about two miles.
Bus Shelter. It was reported that the Bus Shelter had now been repaired by members of the Council at a cost of £15 for galvanised sheeting. The expenditure was confirmed.
Street Lighting. The Clerk reported further correspondence regarding the street lights on the development off Fernhill Road, and a written request from the developer of the site requesting the adoption of the lighting from 30th April 1973. It was agreed that the street lighting be adopted as requested and the Southern Electricity Board paid for the current & maintenance.
Planning Applications.

Mrs. R. Mitchell	Outline permission for	no observations
2 Woodstock Rd	1 house (detached)	
Miss Vandromin & Hayes	Sun lounge	no observations
33 Fernhill Rd		

The Clerk reported that notification of the decision on Phase II of the Old Quarry Site had not been received from the Planning Department. It was agreed to make an official complaint and to inquire why no planning applications had been received in respect of alterations at 1 Begbroke Lane & 2 Fernhill Road.
A34/Springhill road junction. A letter was reported from the County Council stating that all proper markings were in position at this junction.
Playing Field Equipment. It was agreed to make a grant of £60 towards new equipment for the Children's Playing Field.
Stream near Roundham Lock. It was stated that this stream was now much cleaner.

O.A.P.C. The quarterly papers were available for inspection and it was noted that a new Field Officer had been appointed to the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

30 Fernhill Road. The Clerk stated he had written to the owner of this property regarding its condition and the Best Kept Village Competition. It was agreed to ask Blingbury R.D.C. if they could take any action to get this property re-occupied in view of the acute shortage of houses.

Insurance of Councillors. It was agreed that Councillors should be covered for accidental injury or death whilst engaged on the business of the Parish Council in accordance with the proposal of the Commercial Union Assurance Group.

Precept - Resolved. That a decision on the amount of the precept be deferred.

Accounts . Resolved - That the following accounts be paid:

Commercial Union Assurance Compact Policy	£4.00
Heating Light, Village Hall to 31/3/73	£10.00
Royal Exchange assurance - Seats	£10.00
Oxon Association of Parish Councils Sub etc	£7.64
SEB. Street Lighting & repairs 31/3/73	£10.28
Clerks Salary 22/5/73 & Postages	£12.03
Raynham Field Equipment	<u>£60.00</u>

J. A. D. Lorey. 15/2/73
Chairman.

At a special meeting of the Begbroke Parish Council
held at the Village Hall on the 2nd July 1973.

Present.

Mr. F. Storey - Chairman
Mr. P. Cudd Mrs Gay Mrs Hill
Mr Minch.

Mr. Langridge - Deputy Clerk Ploghley R.D.C. by invitation

Village Hall-re-building. The Chairman referred to the meeting with the Village Hall Management Committee regarding proposals for re-building the Village Hall. He explained that Ploghley R.D.C. were prepared to make a grant of £3,000 towards the cost and a loan of £14,000 interest free. The present estimate of the cost was in the region of £20,000 and any shortfall would have to be provided by the management committee. The offer could not be repeated as Ploghley R.D.C. as such would cease to exist on 1st Apr 1974 and be merged with the new Sherwell District. Mr Langridge confirmed these details and said the money would be available subject to a formal decision of Ploghley Council. The loan would be made to the management committee provided the Parish Council would agree to make the necessary repayments over a period of 14/15 years, which they had power to do, and it was not necessary to get the consent of a Parish meeting. To make repayments of approx £1000 a year it would be necessary for the Parish Council to precept for a 12p village rate for this purpose. The management committee would complete a mortgage deed with Ploghley R.D.C. in respect of the loan, and an agreement with the Parish Council undertaking to make the annual repayments of the loan to Ploghley R.D.C. with the money provided by the Parish Council and any other conditions as may be necessary for that purpose. Mrs Hill said she had seen a 'Reema' building at Cartiston and was impressed. It was stated that the management committee had certain

funds to set off against the shortfall of £3,000 and possibly some pruning of the Scheme could be carried out.
After discussion it was

Resolved - (i) That Ploughley R.D.C. be informed that, in principle, the Parish Council desire to take advantage of their offer of an interest free loan of £14,000 towards the cost of re-building Begbroke Village Hall, provided they also make an outright grant of £3,000 towards the cost of the project.

(ii) That the Village Hall Management Committee be informed accordingly, and that it would be necessary for an approved form of agreement to be completed with the Parish Council.

(iii) That the Council agree to raise a yearly parish rate of approximately 1½p. to provide the amount of money to cover the annual repayments of the loan to the district Council.

(iv) That the Chairman be authorised to undertake negotiations to carry these decisions into effect and to report back, as may be necessary, to the Council for confirmation.

D.A. Doran 15/8/73.
Chairman

A Public Meeting held at the Village Hall, Begbroke on the 30th July 1973. to inform Parishioners of the action taken for re-building the Village Hall

Present:

Mr. F. Storey - Chairman

Members of the Parish Council.

Members of the Village Hall Management Committee

Some 40 Members of the General Public.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending and Mr Langridge Deputy Clerk of Bloughley R.D.C. He outlined the history of the present hall which being a temporary structure, permission had to be renewed every three years. The condition was getting worse and the facilities provided were limited and not in accordance with modern standards. The letting potential was very limited.

The Chairman then went on to explain the negotiations which had been taking place and the action which was now proposed to re-build the hall with the backing of the Parish Council.

Mr Hastings produced plans of the proposed new building and said it might be possible to cut back on part of the building.

Various questions were raised and answered including the cost of running the new building.

The Rev Mc Cann thanked the Council and Management Committee for their efforts with regard to the new hall and this was endorsed by the meeting.

D.A. Storey 15/2/78.

Chairman.

At a Meeting of the Bigbrooke Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Bigbrooke on the 15th August 1973 at 7.45pm

Present

Mr. F. Glover - Chairman
Mr. Leach Mrs. Gay Mrs. Hill
Mr. Birch

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd May and 2nd July 1973 and the Public Meeting held on the 30th July 1973 were read and were confirmed by the Chairman.
Rowel Brook. The Clerk reported that Sloughley R.D.C. were attempting to get the brook classified as a river, when it would be the responsibility of the Thames Conservancy.

Phase II - Old Quarry Site. The Clerk stated that the official notification of the result of this application had not been received.

The Chairman reported a letter from the Planning Authority regarding allegations to premises for which formal planning applications were not submitted. It appeared the allegations were permitted development. It was agreed that the matter be noted.

B.R. Bigbrooke to Bladon. The Chairman said he had met Mr Marshall who could not agree the bridle way was obstructed. The Council were of the opinion that the way was obstructed by the fence, and that this should be removed and the ^{way} restored to its original condition as described in the Definitive Map, and no further action taken on the proposed diversion Order.
Trunk Road Lighting A34. The Clerk produced a plan of the lighting layout for the trunk road as approved by the Department of the Environment. It was agreed that the plan be approved.
Roadside Seat. The Clerk reported receipt of £15 from the Insurance Company, and it was agreed that members should look around for a suitable seat to be placed at the bus stop.

Kidlington Airport. The Clerk reported an invitation to attend a meeting on 23rd August called by CSE Aviation for the purpose acquainting local authorities of their present & planned future activities. It was agreed that Mrs Gay should attend the meeting. A letter was also received from the Oxford Airport Noise Abatement Group stating they had suggested to the County Council that a Consultative Committee should be set up to coordinate local authority policy towards the airport. Resolved - That the letter be noted.

Highway matters. A letter was reported from the Area Surveyor stating that the question of trees near the bus shelter should be referred to the Forestry Officer. Sandhill Road would be tidied up and the final re-vegetation of the footpath in Fimbell Road would be arranged.

Churchyard. The Clerk reported a letter from the Rev Mc Cann regarding the proposed annual grant of £20 towards the upkeep of the churchyard, and it was agreed to authorise payment of this sum.

O.A.P.C. The quarterly papers were available for inspection.

Receipt. Resolved - That a Receipt of £300 be issued to Playley R.D.C. to meet the expenses of the Parish Council for the year 1973/74.

Accounts. Resolved - That the following Accounts be paid:-

Smitham Electricity Board 30/6/73	£14.16
Rev. Mc. Cann Upkeep of Churchyard	£20.00
Mrs. A. Cook work on footpaths & Bus Shelter	£5.00
Clerks Salary to 22/8/73	£5.00

J. A. Storey 5/12/73.
Chairman.

At a meeting of the Bigbrooke Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Bigbrooke on the 5th December 1973 at 7.45pm.

Present.

Mr. F. Horey - Chairman
Mr. S. Horey Mrs. Hill
Mr. Birch

Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th August 1973 were read and were confirmed by the Chairman.

Sandhill Road. The Clerk reported a letter from the Area Surveyor stating that the overall responsibility at the junction was anything but clear and was being pursued, further tidying up would be carried out when the extent of the County Council's liability was established.

Planning Applications. It was reported there were no applications for consideration.

Trees at Bus Shelter The Clerk reported a letter from the County Surveyor agreeing two cherries were dead and suggesting that they be grubbed out and replacement trees planted. It was agreed to ask the County Authorities to carry out the work and at the same time to surface the area surrounding the shelter with asphalt or similar material. It was also agreed that if necessary the Parish Council would purchase the replacement trees.

Byelaw No 4 Village End. The Clerk reported a letter from Plymley R.D.C. stating that if this matter is to proceed, legal action against the Marshall would be necessary and the Council would have to prove the way was obstructed. It was agreed that the Chairman be requested to make further enquiries.

New Village Hall project The Chairman reported that the Reema building would be in excess of the funds available and could not be brought below £22,000. Enquiries were being made about Bolton buildings which were not so costly and would provide all necessary facilities. He would pass the management

Committee to arrive at a decision in view of the time factor involved in the offer by Pnyghly RDC.

Youth Club. The Chairman reported a letter from the County Youth Organiser regarding facilities & the appointment of a Youth Leader in the village. Mr. Minch was making contacts & would inform the County Authorities of the results.

Kidlington Airport. The Chairman reported a letter from Mr J. Marshall, Village End, about aircraft noise which would increase following construction of the proposed concrete runway. It was agreed to inform Mr Marshall of the information given by CSE and that noise should not increase when the runway was completed.

Concrete Runway. It was agreed to get details of the proposals for dealing with surface water from the proposed runway in view of the possibility they could affect Rowel Brook.

A 31.9 Junction with Fimhill Rd. The Chairman stated the Action Committee were meeting Junction Council and Officers of the County Council and would be reporting back.

St. Lightly Village Lighting. The Clerk reported that tenders were being invited for St. Lightly Village Lighting. The Chairman stated that the S.E.B. had been asked to continue the present practice of dealing with damage to St. Lightly equipment. The Clerk stated the SEB had notified a 5% increase in maintenance charges from 1st April 1974.

The Clerk stated that in response to Government requests street lighting had been reduced to conserve fuel during the present crisis.

Roadside Seat. The Chairman was authorised to order a replacement Seat. Vandalism. The Chairman referred to damage caused to the W.I. noticeboard and asked members to take names of persons seen committing damage.

Clerk's bourse. It was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to attend a bourse held by the County Association on 2nd July 1974.

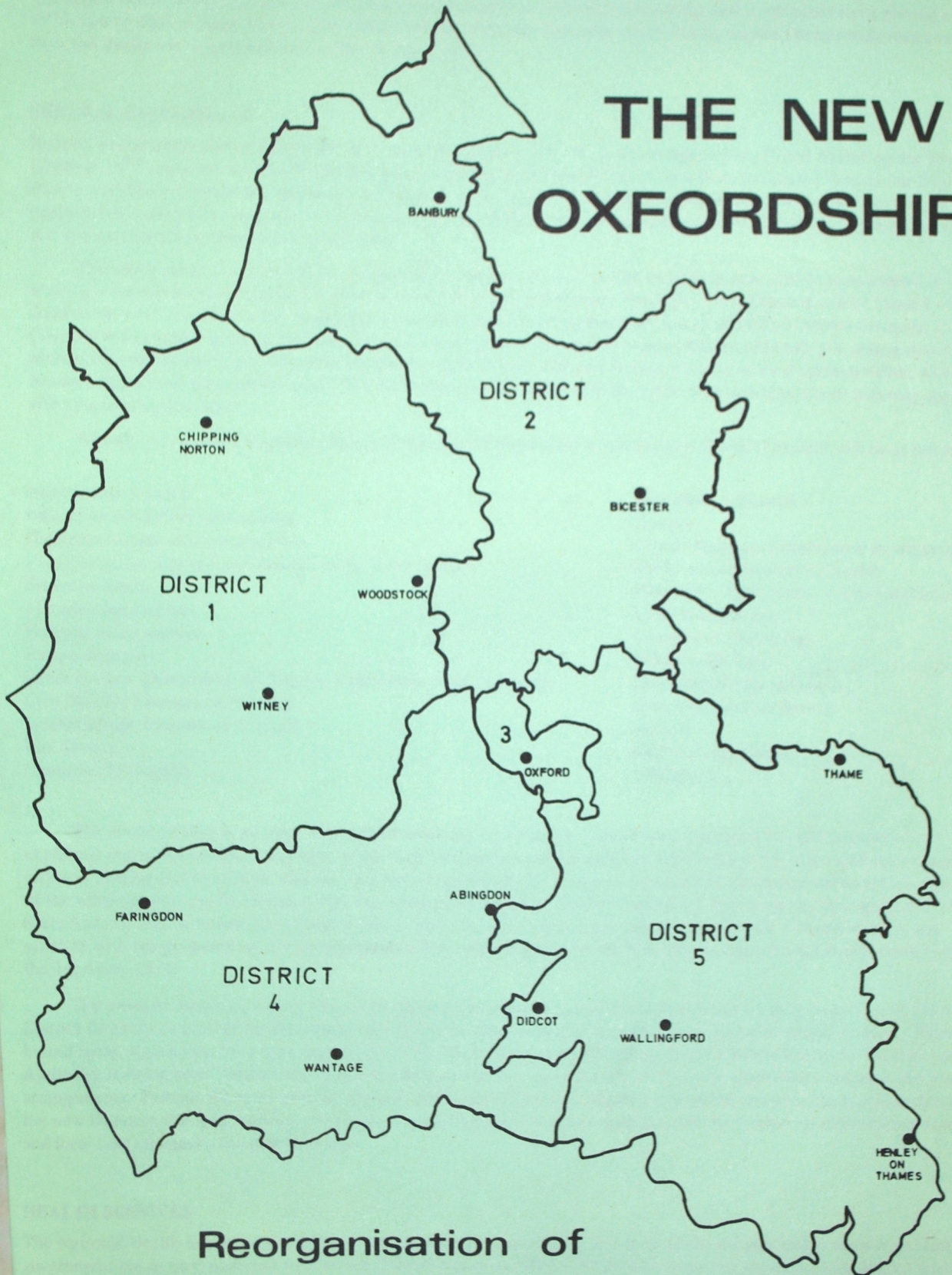
Clerk's Salary. It was agreed that the Clerk be paid an additional £20 per annum in expenses as from 1/12/73.

Accounts. Resolved - That the following accounts be paid:-

Southern Electricity Board	Street Lighting 30/9/73	£23.54
Clerk's Salary to	22/11/73	5.00
O.A.L. Councils	Fee for Clerk's Course	3.50

D.D. Long 6-3-74
Chairman

THE NEW OXFORDSHIRE



Reorganisation of
Local Government

division of responsibility

Metropolitan Council
County Council
District Council

major responsibility



shared responsibility



Information
Digest
Service

INTRODUCTION

Whilst this outline of local government reorganisation has been prepared for the information of local authority members, it is hoped that it can also be used by the local press and radio to draw attention to the new Authorities to be elected in 1973, and to what is being done to assist them to make the many decisions which will be required before they take over their full duties and responsibilities on the 1st April, 1974.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

In place of the existing local authorities, the Local Government Act, 1972, which received the Royal Assent on the 26th October, 1972, provides for completely new County Councils and new District Councils to be created throughout England; there are special arrangements for Wales, and the large conurbations as densely populated areas are now known will be organised on a pattern comparable to that in London. As these special arrangements are not relevant to the new Oxfordshire it is not necessary to explain them in this note.

The new County Councils will be responsible for the provision of certain services in new county areas formed in various ways by a combination of existing Counties in whole or in part and County Boroughs. New Districts will be formed within the areas of the new Counties by the amalgamation of the areas of existing Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils. Parish Councils will continue in much the same form with their present functional responsibilities, although it is anticipated that their present role will be developed to enable them to be an even more effective sounding board of local opinion within what will be much larger local government areas. The 1972 Act provides them with the right to be consulted about planning applications affecting land in their areas.

Broadly speaking the respective duties of the new County Councils and the new District Councils will be as follows :

New County Council

Education and youth employment
Highways (design and maintenance)
Transportation (Transport planning/Traffic/Road Safety)
Structure Plans
Libraries and archives
Personal social services
Refuse disposal
Police (in new Oxfordshire the Thames Valley Police will continue)
Civil Defence Emergency Planning
Smallholdings, Diseases of Animals
Fire Service
Consumer Protection

New District Council

Housing
Certain highways maintenance in urban areas
Public and environmental health
Planning — development control and local plans
Local land charges
Transport undertakings
Refuse collection
Licensing (except vehicles)
Cemeteries and crematoria
Markets
Electoral registration
Allotments

The above division is no more than a brief summary of somewhat complicated arrangements, and it needs to be explained that some functions not mentioned, such as museums and art galleries, swimming baths, parks and open spaces, physical training and recreation, will be concurrent responsibilities. With the exception of education and social services, most of the other services can be carried out by one Council on behalf of another Council by way of agency arrangements. The exact form of such arrangements is a matter which only the new Councils can decide, but any new Council which is not satisfied with the proposed agency arrangements will be able to appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment before the 1st April, 1974.

The message, however, is clear that a true partnership must be forged between the new County Councils and the new District Councils to provide for the community the most effective and at the same time most economical services. There is bound to be uncertainty for a time after April, 1974, when all the new arrangements come into effect, as to "which new Authority is doing what" and it may be of some help to mention at least a few of the more significant changes in the present arrangements. Perhaps the most obvious of these will be the division of planning responsibilities between new Counties and the new Districts, the responsibility placed on the new Counties for refuse disposal, and the transfer of electoral registration and local land charges to the new Districts.

HEALTH SERVICES

The National Health Service is also being reorganised by the Government and most of the present health services of local government are to be transferred to new Area Health Boards in 1974. The services to be transferred include district nursing, health visiting, midwifery, chiropody, school medical and dental service. Certain environment health functions will remain with local authorities. There will clearly be a need for the closest liaison between the new County and District Councils and the new Health Service authorities.

WATER AND DRAINAGE

The Government also propose to set up Regional Water Authorities which will take over from local authorities the responsibility for water supply, and conservation. Again close links with the new Counties and the new Districts will clearly have to be established.

TIMETABLE

The new County Councils will be elected on Thursday, 12th April, 1973, and the new District Councils on Thursday, 7th June, 1973. They will exist side by side with the present Councils and be concerned entirely with preparing for the assumption of their full powers on the 1st April, 1974, when the present Councils (other than Parishes) will cease to exist.

THE NEW OXFORDSHIRE

The new County of Oxfordshire will be formed as the map on the cover shows, from a combination of the existing County, the City of Oxford, and a substantial area of the present Berkshire which can be loosely described as extending from the Oxford City boundary to Wantage and Faringdon. Within the new County five new districts, yet to be named officially, are to be formed:

No. 1 West Oxfordshire	(comprising Chipping Norton Borough, Woodstock Borough, Witney Urban District, Chipping Norton Rural District, Witney Rural District)
No. 2 North-East Oxfordshire	(comprising Banbury Borough, Bicester Urban District, Ploughley Rural District, Banbury Rural District)
No. 3 Oxford	(present City of Oxford)
No. 4 Vale of White Horse	(comprising Abingdon Borough, Wantage Urban District, Abingdon Rural District, Faringdon Rural District, part of Wantage Rural District)
No. 5 South-East Oxfordshire	(comprising Henley Borough, Wallingford Borough, Thame Urban District, Bullingdon Rural District, Henley Rural District, Wallingford Rural District)

Some of the vital statistics are:

	Oxford County	Oxford City	North Berks	New Oxfordshire Total
Population (1971 Census)	272,785	108,805	123,576	505,166
Area (acres)	470,392	8,785	166,106	645,283
Rateable value (1971)	£10,748,052	£7,337,621	£5,123,856	£23,209,529
Estimated product of a penny rate	£110,933	£76,690	£52,168	£239,791

PLANNING FOR REORGANISATION IN NEW OXFORDSHIRE

A Joint Committee, now known as the Oxfordshire 1974 Committee was formed in November, 1971, from the three constituent Authorities — Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford County Borough Council and Berkshire County Council. This Committee, which is now a statutory Committee under the 1972 Act, has the task of advising the new County Council when elected as to how it might, in the relatively short time available, organise itself and in turn the services for which it will be responsible so that it can operate effectively in April, 1974. The membership of the Oxfordshire 1974 Committee is as follows. (O) meaning a member of the Oxfordshire County Council, (B) a member of the Berkshire County Council, and (C) a member of the Oxford City Council —

	Alderman the Viscountess Parker — Chairman (O)	
	Alderman J. E. J. Francis — Vice-Chairman (B)	
	Councillor Mrs. O. F. Gibbs — Vice-Chairman (C)	
Councillor J. N. S. Brogden	(B)	Councillor P. D. Mulley (O)
Alderman T. B. Cooper	(O)	Councillor Colonel C.R.W. Norman (B)
Councillor B. H. Duggan	(B)	Councillor M. A. Oakeshott (C)
Councillor H. A. Farrant	(O)	Councillor F. V. Pickstock (C)
Alderman R. E. Groves	(O)	Councillor R. L. Sadler (O)
Councillor J. R. Hollis	(O)	Alderman W. E. Simpson (C)
Alderman H. R. Kitto	(O)	Alderman Miss A. H. Spokes (C)
Councillor Captain C. W. Mayne	(B)	Councillor R. C. Weir (O)

District Committee Representatives

No. 1 — Councillor H. B. Edginton	No. 4 — Councillor E. J. S. Parsons
No. 2 — Councillor A. T. Williams	No. 5 — Councillor E. Howard
No. 3 — Councillor the Rev. A. W. Williamson	

The main Committee has set up Sub-Committees and Working Groups to consider in more detail various administrative aspects :

- Management Structure and Policy Sub-Committee
- Staff, Land and Buildings Sub-Committee
- Staff Joint Committee
- Electoral Arrangements Sub-Committee
- Education, Libraries and Museums Working Group
- Financial Programmes and Systems Working Group
- General Purposes Working Group
- Social Services Working Group
- Transportation, Planning and Refuse Disposal Working Group

At Chief Officers level, a Working Group has been set up to investigate the many problems of re-organisation including the integration of services to be transferred to the new County Council, and to advise the Committee and its Sub-Committees and Groups generally.

PROGRESS SO FAR

The Oxfordshire 1974 Committee, its Sub-Committees and Working Groups have made good progress in preparing for the new County Council a "blue print" which they can study based on the experience gained by present members over the years in administering the services which they will take over. Much still remains to be done and final conclusions have yet to be reached, but the following developments, out of many, may be of general interest at this time.

LOCATION OF COUNTY HALL

It is clear that the initial headquarters of the new County Council must be at County Hall. To this end the present Oxfordshire County Council has done its best to accelerate the construction of Phase II of the new County Hall building, and various premises have been acquired in the centre of Oxford and will be converted into offices for use until either Oxford Prison is closed and its site made available, or some other decision as to the long term location of its Headquarters is made by the new Council. At the same time consideration is being given to the provision of area offices associated with the offices of the new Districts so that the public can obtain answers to their problems without visiting the Headquarters of the new County Council.

Fire Brigade

It will be recommended that the headquarters of the new County Fire Service should be the present Oxfordshire Fire Brigade Headquarters at Kidlington.

Committee Structure

It has become more and more apparent that local government must secure a co-ordinated approach in administering their services since each one must fit in with an overall plan for the whole area. To this end the Government commissioned a report, now known as the Bains Report, giving advice to all local authorities on management structures. One recommendation of the 1974 Committee based on this report is the creation of a central Policy and Resources Committee, with three Sub-Committees dealing with Finance, Personnel and Land and Buildings; a fourth Sub-Committee to review performance in reaching objectives will be suggested for future consideration. In turn a fairly traditional pattern of committees will be recommended to administer the various services, subject to overall control on policy issues. It will be of the utmost importance for the new County Council to appoint their new Chief Executive Officer as soon as possible after the April elections so that it may have the benefit of his advice on all these matters. It must then appoint its Chief Officers for the various services, so that departmental establishments can be settled with their advice.

Planning

In anticipation of the need for more comprehensive planning processes, a Joint Structure Planning Team has been set up comprising members and officers of the present Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, and Berkshire County Council, with the aim of producing a general structure plan for the whole area; the new County Council will become responsible for this team.

Building Programmes

Clearly, necessary projects must not be delayed by re-organisation and each existing Council, in consultation with the Oxfordshire 1974 Committee, is going ahead with its building programmes.

Computer

The new County Council will need extended computer facilities, and a new I.C.L. 1902 S Computer is to be hired to cope with the increased work-load. It is intended that the new County's computer will be made available by direct link to the new District Councils if they so require.

Refuse Disposal

This is a new function for a County Council, and the Local Government Operational Research Unit has been commissioned to study the area of the new Oxfordshire and make recommendations on types of treatment plants needed and their location. Discussions will need to take place to ensure that the existing services will be maintained for an appropriate period after April, 1974, until an overall plan can be agreed and implemented.

Museum

The possibility of establishing a branch of the City and County Museum using the accommodation at present occupied by the Oxford City Library, which will shortly be moving to new premises in the Westgate Development, is being discussed.

Staff and Employees

Obviously reorganisation affects the future employment of all local government staff and creates anxieties for them. The Oxfordshire 1974 Committee is very alive to the need to maintain staff morale over what will be a difficult period for staff, and regular meetings are held with their representatives to discuss problems of mutual concern. Filling existing vacancies creates problems for existing authorities who must provide effective services until April, 1974, but every effort is being made to protect the future interests of present staff.

Rates

All that can be said here is that the Government has announced its intention to revise the present system of local government finance but whatever may be forthcoming to spread the burden more evenly over the community within the local government areas, it has to be accepted that a substantial contribution must come from Central Government.

Public Relations

The Oxfordshire 1974 Committee is very concerned that members of the public should be kept well informed about local government activities in the new County, and an experienced public relations officer has been appointed and will take up his duties in March, 1973. It is being proposed to the Oxfordshire 1974 Committee that shortly before the public announcement of the timetable for the election for the new County Council on 12th April, 1973, an explanatory leaflet should be distributed to every householder in the area explaining the effects of reorganisation as concisely as possible.

Finally, the Oxfordshire 1974 Committee will have a significant role to play in organising the first meeting of the new County Council after it has been elected. It is to be proposed that the first meeting of the new County Council should take place on Wednesday, 18th April, 1973.

A. T. BROWN
G. G. BURKITT
R. W. GASH

} Joint Clerks of the Oxfordshire 1974 Committee

December 1972

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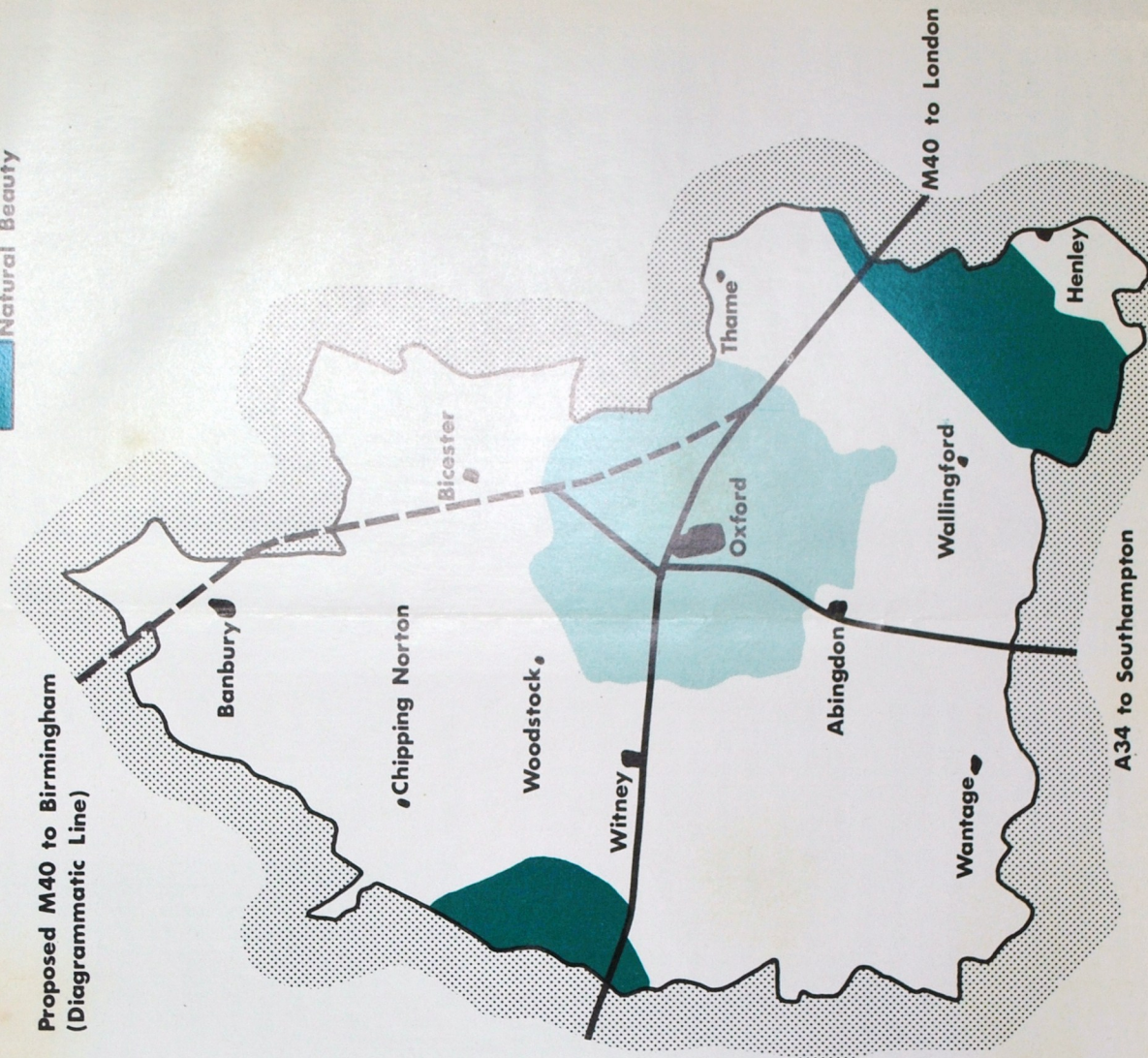
**Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty**

**Proposed M40 to Birmingham
(Diagrammatic Line)**

A40 to Cheltenham

M40 to London

A34 to Southampton



as part of the future system of local government in Britain. It will be much larger than the present county. Into it will go not only the existing Oxfordshire, but Oxford City and a large part of Berkshire as well. It will have a population of over half a million people in an area with the highest growth rate in the country. Its new Council will, with the new District Councils, be responsible for planning for the whole future of the area. For the first time it will be possible to do this in a comprehensive way, planning for land, transport and resources all together, giving a new opportunity to guide future developments in the County so as to make it a good place for everyone who lives there. This will be done through what is called a Structure Plan.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Already the Berkshire and Oxfordshire County Councils and the Oxford City Council have set up a joint Steering Committee which is responsible for the work on the plan. The members of this Committee are:

Mr. B. H. Duggan	Berkshire
Colonel C. R. W. Norman	County
Sir Henry Williams	Council
Dr. T. L. Blundell	Oxford
Mrs. O. F. Gibbs	City
Mr. W. E. Simpson	Council
Mr. T. B. Cooper	Oxfordshire
Mr. H. A. Farrant	County
Mr. R. E. Groves	Council
Mr. F. G. Piggott	

WHAT IS A STRUCTURE PLAN?

This is a written description of the strategy which the authority intends to follow in planning the general pattern of development during the next

20 years or so. It is intended to provide a broad framework for development and is illustrated by diagrams rather than conventional maps. It does not show details such as the effect on individual properties; these details will be shown on local plans for which the new District Councils will be mainly responsible. Throughout the preparation of the Structure Plan there will be full opportunity for public participation and there will be a great deal of consultation on all aspects of the plan. Oxfordshire is confronted with many serious problems but before any conclusions are reached various alternative solutions need to be considered.

WHAT CAN IT ACHIEVE?

The well-being of a community depends enormously on the chance every member of it has to make their own special contribution and to develop their own individual life-style, without spoiling other people's chances of doing so too. This means a wide range of educational facilities and job opportunities; it means a choice of places to live and opportunities for leisure pursuits, and all these things need good transport facilities. These activities all bring pressures for change on the world around us, which few of us welcome, whether it is on land for housing, schools or roads, or on water for drinking or sailing, or for power lines to bring electricity to our homes. Somehow we have to try to bring these changes about so that they add to rather than diminish our great heritage from the past whether in city, town, village or countryside.

THE SCALE OF THE OPERATION

These objectives would be difficult enough to achieve if there were to be no more people in the county of the future than there are today; but the expectation is that the population of the new county will increase in the years ahead so that by the end of the century there may well be a population equivalent to two new Oxfordshire to be housed and provided for in the county. So we have to plan for

a future in which there will be many more people doing many more things and owning many more cars, and at the same time avoid the feelings of irritation and frustration that too many people or things in the wrong places inevitably bring. And we have always to remember that the more attractive it is to live here and the more jobs there are, the more people will want to come.

HOW IS IT TO BE DONE?

Clearly no major decisions on the future can be taken until the new County and District Councils come into being next year, but in the meantime a team of officers has been set to work on these problems and a great deal of information is being gathered.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Progress on the plan is at first bound to be slow, but will gather momentum as the work proceeds and as time goes on you will hear much more about it. In the early stages you may be asked either as an individual or as the representative of an organisation for information and ideas; later you will be given opportunities to say what you think about any aspect of the plan and your ideas may well affect the way the future unfolds not only for yourself, but for others as well. However, please do not wait to be asked: the Structure Plan Team, whose address is given below, would like to hear from you with any ideas or suggestions you may have now or at any time in the future. All the contributions made will be considered by the new Oxfordshire County Council who will be responsible for the Plan to be submitted to the Government for their approval.

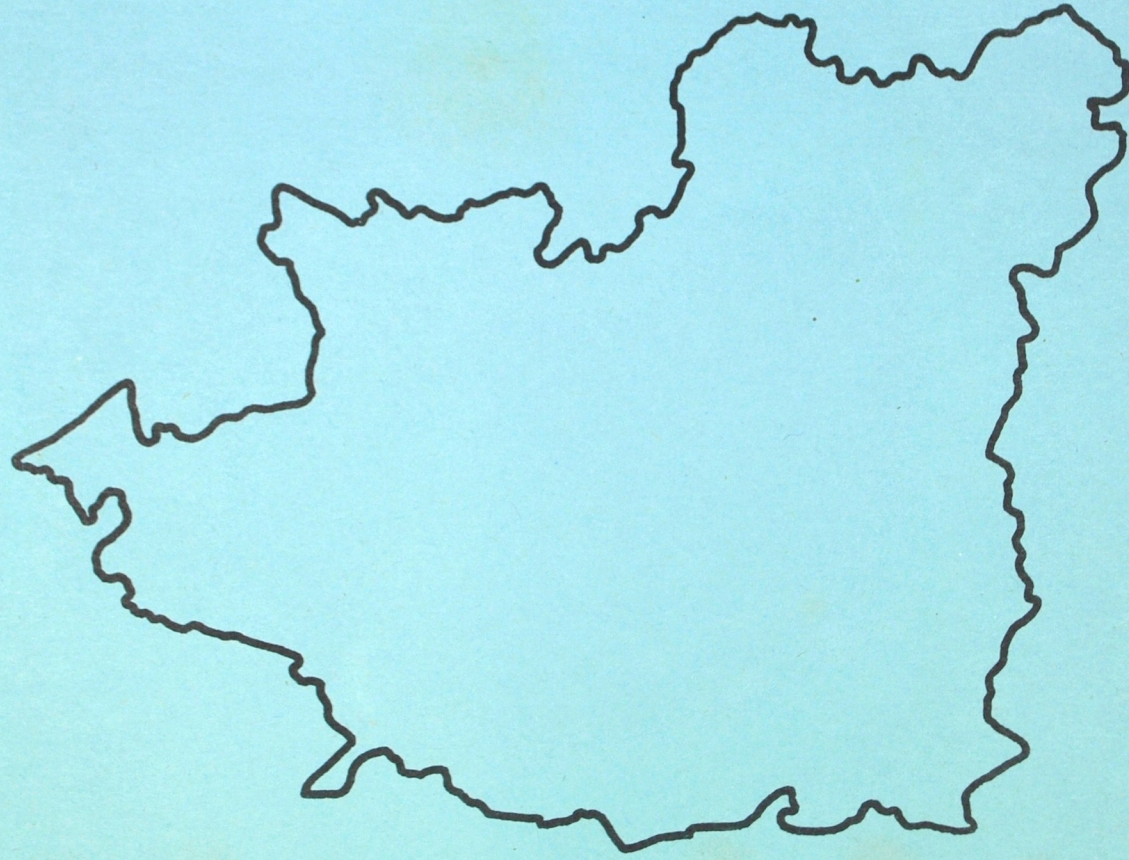
New Oxfordshire Joint Structure Plan Team
8-10 Cambridge Terrace
Oxford OX1 1RG
(Tel. Oxford 21374/5/6)

March 1973



Berkshire County Council
Oxford City Council

NEW OXFORDSHIRE



STRUCTURE PLAN

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**Planning in the
New Oxfordshire**

PLANNING IN THE NEW OXFORDSHIRE

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING IN THE NEW OXFORDSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

This booklet explains the purpose of a Structure Plan that is being prepared for the new County of Oxfordshire, why and how it is being prepared and the ways in which you or your organisation can help.

As part of a new system of planning, the Structure Plan will have a marked influence on the new County's future development. Although unfamiliar now, it will eventually be of great concern to everyone in the new County and will form the framework for the spending of large sums of public and private money.

But perhaps the most important feature of this new system of planning how the future County will develop is the degree to which everyone has a part in making the plan. It is the main purpose of this booklet to explain how the plan is to be produced so that you will understand better how and when it will be possible for you to play your part.

STRUCTURE PLANS

Like all the other counties in the South-East of England, the new County of Oxfordshire has a duty to prepare a Structure Plan for the whole of its area. In practice the plan is likely to be produced in two sections: one plan for the main part of the County, and a somewhat more detailed "Urban Structure Plan" for the City of Oxford itself. Since the new County includes not only the old County of Oxfordshire but the City of Oxford and a large part of northern Berkshire as well, the plans will be dealing with a wide area. Partly for this reason they will give an overall view, and will be concerned with the broad strategy of change. In fact, one of the first tasks of these plans must be to draw together the policies and the patterns of development that are taking place in these three areas, which for very many years have been administered by three different authorities.

FORMAT OF THE PLANS

In several ways the new plans will be different from the Development Plans which have been used up till now. Firstly, they will have a new format. The old plans were maps, showing, as far as was known, how each piece of land was to be used. These maps were accompanied by a written statement of the policies that lay behind the ways in which the land had been allocated for different uses.

The Structure Plan, on the other hand, is first and foremost a written document setting out the aims of the plan and the authority's policies and proposals for achieving these aims. There are no maps: the document is illustrated by diagrams. The hope is that this will be a more flexible kind of plan. Particular decisions about how each piece of land is to be used can be based on the intention of the plan rather than on its details, since although the plan will be perfectly precise in what it proposes, the 'fine-print' describing how this is to affect any particular plot of land will not be included. The plan will not tie itself down beforehand on details.

THE STRUCTURE PLAN AND THE PLANNING SYSTEM

The Structure Plan has a special role within the new pattern of plans. As a plan at County or City level it has to bridge the gap between local and regional plans. The regional plan which covers the new Oxfordshire is "The Strategic Plan for the South-East" and the Structure Plan has to show how the County's future development will fit in with the region's overall pattern of change and how regional policies will affect the county.

The strategic policy described in the Structure Plan will become effective through what are called Local Plans which will be mainly the responsibility of the new County Districts. The actual working arrangements on how and by whom these Local Plans are to be prepared will be set out in what is known as a Development Plan Scheme to be drawn up by the new County and District Councils. There are various types of Local Plan : for example, there are Action Area Plans for small areas where comprehensive redevelopment or renewal are to take place; District Plans covering larger areas such as small towns or groups of villages; and Subject Plans covering particular activities such as recreation and gravel working. These plans show what policies will be followed and what changes will take place in particular areas, and how these will fit into the framework provided by the Structure Plan. Local Plans will be based on maps and will deal in detail with how each piece of land is to be used.

No area of the county is self-contained; its future inevitably will be affected by surrounding areas. This means that no plan can be prepared in isolation. Each local plan must explore the needs, the potential and the capacity of its own area then feed back this specialist knowledge to those responsible for the overall strategy who can, as a result of local factors, make adjustments or amendments. Thus Local Plans will influence the Structure Plan, even though the Structure Plan provides the framework for the Local Plan; it will be a two-way process in which each is dependent on the other, so there will clearly have to be the greatest possible understanding between those responsible for each.

The work on the Structure Plan will therefore provide a forum for discussion between the new County Council and the new District Councils, who will deal with, for example, housing and will share responsibility with the County for planning applications, as well as for recreation and leisure facilities. It will also offer an opportunity to bring together, through consultations and negotiation, other public bodies such as statutory undertakers, the new regional water authorities and area health authorities, who are likely to be concerned with important aspects of the plan. Later, the Structure Plan itself will provide a co-ordinated basis upon which these various interests can develop their individual programmes of work.

Inflexible plans have a habit of being overtaken by events and finding themselves on the shelf. Structure Planning will be an open-ended process, continuously aware of new concepts and new ways of solving society's problems and opening out fresh possibilities for the future.

THE ISSUES FACING THE STRUCTURE PLAN

The Structure Plan process will not approach its task as if with a clean sheet of paper; it starts with a consideration of the problems of the region as a whole, and the plans for its future outlined in the "Strategic Plan for the South-East" published in 1970, and it will clearly have to take into account the policies of the previous Planning Authorities for the area. What are these problems and policies?

The major problem of the south-east is the continuing population growth. More and more people wish to live in the region and this fact, together with the greater prosperity and increased leisure forecast for future years, will create tremendous demands for land, housing and all other kinds of development throughout the area.

The regional plan proposes that major expansion of population should be limited to a number of clearly defined areas including South Essex, South Hampshire, Crawley, the Reading-Aldershot-Basingstoke triangle and Milton Keynes. Beyond the region other major expansion areas are proposed at Northampton, Swindon and Severnside.

Oxfordshire in contrast is not seen as an area of substantial planned growth. The Strategic Plan places emphasis on conserving the character of Oxford and other historic towns in the new County and looks on the Structure Plan to see how far the potential for employment in the area can be realised without harming the character of these towns and fine areas of open country, such as the Cotswolds, Chilterns and Berkshire Downs. With these objectives in mind, the Strategic Plan expected Oxfordshire's population to continue to increase at about the present rate of just over 8,000 people a year until 1981 and from then by about 5,000 people a year rising again towards the end of the century. But even with this lower rate of growth in the 1980s homes would have to be found for a population equivalent to that of two new Oxfords. One of the main questions the Structure Plan will have to answer is whether in these days of increased mobility and improved communications it is realistic and feasible to contain the rate of growth of an area virtually on the threshold of London and surrounded by rapidly growing neighbours particularly if it stands as does Oxford at the crossroads of the communication network between the South-East and the Midlands. And it will have to ask whether it can meet these pressures and still provide for the growing needs of people who already live and work here.

Having made the best possible assessment of the future growth of the population in the area for which provision should be made, the Plan will have to determine where are the best places for people to live, bearing in mind where they are likely to be working, and the effect the extra numbers are likely to have on all the facilities the County has to offer, whether theatres, trains, schools, roads, shops, or the countryside: in short it will have to determine what sort of place it will be for people to live in whether their actual home is in the City, in one of the county towns or in a village. This may mean deciding, for example, whether and by how much any place in the county should grow, or whether there should perhaps be some completely new town or a number of communities to accommodate some of the extra population.

Because movement plays such a big part in people's lives nowadays, the Structure Plan will also have to deal with the very difficult issue of the degree to which people can continue to use their motor cars as a means of getting to or very near to their destination; on the other side of this coin, it will have to think about ways in which it can contribute to the provision of good public transport systems by ensuring that the pattern of development makes this less rather than more difficult.

Of course, none of these problems are entirely new, and the former planning authorities have all had well defined policies : for example, a common agreed policy has been that the population for which Oxford is the natural centre should not grow, that development in the old County of Oxfordshire should take place predominantly in the major urban settlements, and that in North Berkshire growth should take place primarily in Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage. Other factors such as the designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will clearly continue to have their influence in determining policy. Nevertheless the Structure Plan will be free to re-examine the ideas that lie behind these policies, and to test its own thinking in the decisions that will have to be taken before a strategy emerges which by common consent seems most attuned to peoples aspirations for the future.

HOW THE PLAN IS TO BE MADE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

Anyone who has ever tried to plan anything in advance for themselves will know how difficult it is to forecast exactly how long it will be before a satisfactory solution emerges, and a Structure Plan is no exception. One of the main difficulties in timetabling is that it is virtually impossible to forecast public response in advance, and it often happens that plans which appear to be soundly based have to go back into the melting pot because they prove unacceptable to public opinion when they are unveiled. It is partly for this reason that everyone will be kept in the picture as the plan advances, so that any re-thinking can be done as it goes along.

The first events in the programme are studies of the existing situation. These studies, for which information is already being collected, will be made over the next year or so and will include :

- i) an analysis of the employment situation and industries and services in the county;
- ii) a population study which will look at the social and family structure of the population as well as at changes in number;
- iii) a housing study which will examine housing needs and provision;
- iv) a study of traffic and transport

Studies will also be made of shopping, education, welfare and recreation facilities and needs. For any of these studies you or your organisation may be invited to help in the preparation and assembly of information. When each study has been completed a document will be published for comment before use is made of the material in the formulation of any plan. Needless to say local authorities and other official bodies will be automatically consulted where they have a special contribution to make either of information or expertise in a particular subject.

A major field of study will be the transport needs of the County. As you will no doubt have read in the local newspapers, the Department of the Environment are already at work on the preliminary studies required for a number of potential new national strategy roads in the County and you may already have been approached for information about your own transport needs in connection with these studies. The information being obtained from these studies will be used and supplemented for the Structure Plan, and clearly the co-ordination of the work of these two agencies will be a major preoccupation.

As the jigsaw revealed by these studies is fitted together the issues with which the Structure Plan will have to deal with become clearer and it should be possible to recognise the alternative strategies and policies best able to meet the needs of the area. At this stage the opportunity will be yours — either personally or through an organisation — to make known your views on the alternatives that have been announced or to put forward ideas of your own which you think are better. Public comment at this stage will be of great importance and will enable the new County Council to consider the various alternatives and develop the most promising of them for formal investigation at a Public Inquiry.

If you or your organisation are actively interested in the work on the plan please do not wait to be asked to contribute. The Structure Plan Team whose address is given below would like to hear from you with any ideas or suggestions you may have now or at any time in the future. In particular, if you would like to receive copies of any material published in connection with the plan please complete the application form and return it to the address given.

NEW OXFORDSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN TEAM
8 - 10 CAMBRIDGE TERRACE
ST. EBBE'S
OXFORD OX1 1RG

Please complete as appropriate and return to the Structure Plan Team,
8/10 Cambridge Terrace, St. Ebbe's, Oxford OX1 1RG

I am interested in receiving any material to be published in connection with the Structure Plan on the following topics :

	Please tick here
Economic activities, Population and Housing	☐
Shopping	☐
Education	☐
Social Services	☐
Recreation	☐
Transportation	☐
The Physical Environment	☐
Minerals	☐

Signed

Name

Address

Telephone