

District Councillor Report.

Councillors: Dorothy Walker, Lesley McLean, Jean Conway.

Parish Councils: Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke

Period: June/July 2025

Parish Liaison Meeting.

Last Wednesday's Parish Liaison meeting was very successful and informative: many useful questions were put from the floor. The webcast and minutes will be viewable on the CDC website. Residents and councillors were urged to attend the drop-in sessions on LGR currently being held across Cherwell (session dates and location details on the website).

Parishes are urged to check that the details about membership of their councils is correctly recorded at CDC. The membership listings for each council can be seen on the Council's website.

Health Scrutiny.

As CDC's representative on the Oxfordshire Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, I recently raised a question about residents' take up and use/non-use of the NHS App, given that it is being so heavily promoted nationally and locally. Healthwatch have taken this question up and are currently running a survey of people's experience of the NHS app in managing their healthcare. Everyone is urged to respond, whether or not they are users of the app. All responses will be useful. The survey is on the Healthwatch website at www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Area Oversight Group.

A green spaces review is currently underway to establish knowledge of the space and use. This will also begin to establish possible 'green and blue corridors' across the area. Next Five Parishes meeting will be: 2nd July, 2025 at Exeter Hall.

Local Plan 2042.

The Cherwell Local Plan has now completed both the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation stages. Council officers have reviewed all the feedback received during these stages.

Before the Plan can move forward, a few additional topic papers still need to be prepared. The current timetable is for the Plan to be considered by the Executive on 1 July, and then by Full Council on 21 July.

At present, Cherwell District has only a 2.3-year housing land supply, which falls short of the government's required five-year supply. To address this, a Housing Delivery Action Plan has been developed. This aims to ensure that new development is located on suitable and sustainable sites—avoiding speculative or inappropriate development in less suitable locations.

Once the new Local Plan is formally adopted, we expect to restore a five-year housing land supply, supported by a clear trajectory of deliverable housing sites. This will help strengthen

the Council's ability to defend against unsuitable development proposals, which is of direct importance to local communities and parish councils.

Local Government Reorganisation.

Devolution and Local Government Reform were brought forward by the Government in December 2024. The proposal will see two-tier authorities as seen in Oxfordshire, end and new unitary councils created. Local engagement events have been taking place and information and surveys can be found here twocouncil.org.

Flood Funding.

Thirteen of the Expression of Interest applications approved are in Cherwell. The number of current active flood risk reduction projects in Cherwell have swollen to more than 20. A budget has been provided for an additional full-time Flood Risk Officer. A recruitment campaign will soon commence. In the meantime, our Flood Risk Manager will be using available funds to secure some consultancy support so that a start can be made on the workload.

The Section 19 report for Garden City has been released and we are awaiting a further report for Mill End.

OCC have now published their Flooding Toolkit on their website. Parishes will be invited to attend a flooding workshop at the end of the summer.

Extinction Rebellion March.

There will be an Extinction Rebellion March to the Airport on 5th July 2025.