

Fritwell Parish Council re MCNP Review

This issue was raised at our last Parish Council meeting and discussed by councillors (5) and residents present (8).

The main issues raised during the discussion were:

- Climate Change and sustainability.
- Energy efficiency – standards for new homes, local energy generation, no fossil fuels e.g., Consideration of Community Energy Solutions, particularly on villages that rely on exclusively on kerosene heating oil.
- Transport for villagers – development at Category A villages should provide local sustainable transport for residents (including those working or commuting). Possibly joined up thinking on village community bus services – potentially hub and spoke solutions (Heyford Park the hub?). Town Centres are being hollowed out such as Bicester in favour of out of town shopping centres. Transport to and from these should be considered.
- Helping the elderly – including home standards.
- More Local Green Spaces.
- Definition of category A villages should be reviewed and challenged (possibly at CDC Local Plan Review)
- Level of growth in villages to be defined. The most useful policy for Fritwell in the current MCNP has been in PD1 with stated indicative numbers for growth. New homes and residents need to be able to be absorbed by villages, not overwhelming the community and facilities.
- PD4 re views, vistas, skylines etc. has also been very useful to help curtail unwanted growth within and on the edges of the village.
- A Heritage Impact Assessment should be required for all development affecting conservation areas, listed buildings etc.
- Additional growth should not produce more traffic using narrow and unsuitable rural roads. The needs of farmers should be considered.
- Sewerage capacity, surface water and flooding concerns should be included.
- Security and quality of water supply should be included (demands on reservoir and water treatment capacity).
- Infrastructure for electric car charging and wi-fi as standard in new homes.
- Concern about loss of agricultural land, local food production and food security needs to be reflected in policies.
- Bio-diversity net gain to be enhanced and primarily achieved on development sites. Any additional offset should be within the local parish or near neighbourhood to provide local mitigation for local loss.
- Local footpaths and cycleways included to provide good local connectivity.
- Efforts should be made to involve young people in the review of the neighbourhood plan.