

**District Council report  
14 August 2023  
for  
Fritwell Parish Council  
on  
15 August 2023**

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Planning policy

The Council's Executive is now due to consider a consultation draft of the Cherwell Local Plan Review (the so-called 'Regulation 18' procedure) at its meeting on 4 September 2023.

The Cherwell Local Plan 2040 had initially gone to the Executive on 19 January 2023. Background reading for colleagues' benefit can be found [here](#) in case of interest. I would suggest that Parish Councillors with a particular interest in Planning do so.

Following extensive comments from the Council's Overview and Scrutiny ('O&S') committee on 11 January 2023 (further details of which can be found [here](#)) and owing to the proximity of the local elections, a sensible precautionary decision was taken by the Exec to delay consideration of the Regulation 18 process until the Summer.

Subject to the approval of the Executive, the Council is expected to launch a six-week public consultation (mid-September – end October/early November).

During the consultation, a series of public exhibitions and parish workshops will be held at dates to be confirmed.

The draft plan, when published, will then still be at the 'Regulation 18 stage'. Regulation 18 essentially means the initial stages of preparing a Council's local plan. It is where the Council is still developing its policies and proposals, and where it is looking to hear the views of local communities.

The Council's recent Parish Liaison meeting provided an update on this process and further information will be provided in the monthly parish newsletter updates, too.

Pre-notification emails will be sent to all Parish Councils ahead of the Executive meeting in September (please expect this in the week commencing 4 September 2023) with further details surrounding the public consultation.

I have made it clear that Parish Councils must be properly consulted on the emerging plans. As ever, if colleagues wish to discuss any matters with me at all, they are welcome to do so.

Planning applications affecting the Deddington ward

I attach lists of the planning applications received by Cherwell District Council over the last fortnight. There is a demolition matter that may be of interest to the parish, details of which can be found [here](#) (ref. 23/02080/F).

Although in the neighbouring ward, I remain somewhat concerned about the outline application for 230 new homes off Camp Road in Upper Heyford, details of which can be found [here](#) (ref. 23/01503/OUT).

If there are any other matters of concern, please let me know. I am happy to follow up.

#### Potential closures of Banbury and Bicester North ticket offices

I attach a response from Huw Merriman MP, Minister of State for Transport, to Leader of Cherwell District Council, Cllr Barry Wood containing important information surrounding potential closures of Banbury and Bicester North ticket offices. An ongoing consultation is live now and all parish colleagues are welcome to respond.

#### Chiltern Railways Engineering update

Most of the recent disruption on the Chiltern line in recent months is now over insofar as the Banbury and Bicester lines are affected. I provide a summary of the dates where services are – or were – affected here:

- Oxford Parkway to Oxford – 29 July to 6 August
- Bicester North to Banbury/Leamington Spa – 29 July to 4 August
- Aylesbury Vale Parkway to Amersham – 7 August to 18 August
- Aylesbury to Princes Risborough – 7 August to 30 October

I attach the latest update from Chiltern Railways for ease of reference, which seemingly affects our line to a lesser extent than in recent weeks.

#### Rationalisation of the Council's estate

The District Council continues to push on with an ambitious programme of rationalising its post-pandemic buildings, the broad thrust of which is to make better use of land in Banbury and Bicester, and to encourage more workers and more homes in our town centres.

I am strongly supportive of this approach, not least given the pressure that could otherwise be placed on our rural parishes in terms of new homes. My own view is that we can find significant room for new homes within our towns, especially Banbury. Getting salaries into our town centres, too, can only be a good thing and I very much hope to see the District Council relocated to Banbury town centre over the next 12 months.

#### The King's Head

Marc and I continue to chase Cherwell District Council surrounding the enforcement action. I have asked for an update ahead of our parish meeting and I will update colleagues as soon as I know more.

#### Control of Cherwell District Council

In administrative terms, the Council continues to function well, despite being in 'no overall control' and being finely balanced as follows:

20 Conservative;  
12 Labour;  
10 Liberal Democrat;  
3 Green; and  
3 Independent.

### Ongoing casework

All parish councillors should feel free to get in touch anytime. Do, please, encourage residents to keep sending through any issues of concern to them, their neighbours or the wider parish, too.

The best means of getting in touch in the first instance is WhatsApp (07445 395 166). I am generally able to respond while at work and we can always firm up a time to speak on the phone later that day or week.

For more detailed enquiries, please email these through to [eddie.reeves@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:eddie.reeves@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) and I will do my best to respond within two clear working days.

Equally, residents who do not 'do' WhatsApp or email are welcome to give me a ring on my mobile although I may often be at work during the day. I am *always* happy to help.

I am keen also to be added to any village WhatsApp groups, if that could be arranged.

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As ever, if you have any questions about this report or the District Council's work, do please let me know.

**Cllr Eddie Reeves**  
**Cherwell District Councillor for Deddington ward**  
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