

Chair's Report. July 5th 2023

Good evening,

This has been a very busy month!

Firstly, it was great to be able to deliver 107.66 kg of food and toiletries to the Bicester Food Bank on behalf of our village. The need is so great and the thank you from the team at the Food Bank was overwhelming.

You will note that there are several 'big issues' on the agenda tonight which involve development. It is key that all of us understand how our response to these issues needs to comply with planning codes at all levels. Our responsibility is to make sure that our Neighbourhood Plan forms a solid platform on which planning applications for our parish can be assessed by Cherwell. We've discussed these issues at the Executive level of the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance and have decided to provide a training for all councillors but specifically for new councillors. I've requested it be an evening Zoom meeting so working people can attend and also so we don't ask for weekend events.

Both Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council have had reporting sessions this month. I will be reporting on both during this meeting but I would like the Parish Council to note that communication between both OCC, CDC and the parishes were highlighted as issues. As a team, we need to hold the district and the county to their promises and when response is underwhelming, we should engage our district and county councillors for support. In the past few years we have been very impressed with this type of support.

The effectiveness of this parish council is greatly enhanced by our advisors. You will see several in the room this evening and will hear their reports on some of the major objectives of our recent work. Looking ahead we need to find a biodiversity champion to work alongside us. This is important for us to meet our goal of having an impact on our surroundings in a positive way. Please look out for such a person in the village.

So – lots on the agenda, let's proceed.

Diane Bohm