

Chair's Report. Oct 4th, 2023

Good evening

You may not have noticed but I've been awol for 2.5 weeks. I developed pneumonia and once better we went for a holiday to North Wales and a few days in the New Forest. It was restorative and beautiful. Everywhere I travelled I admired the landscapes and thought about the need for housing in this country and where it should/could go. I haven't solved it but perhaps some good discussions about the Draft Cherwell Local Plan will help!

A couple of notes: the Village News had a publication delay and I have only collected the Oct 1st edition today. We are short of two people to help with deliveries specifically to Westlands Avenue and to Southfield Development.

Our joint October Food Bank is this Saturday. There was a very generous collection last month and hopefully we all have some items to donate on Saturday morning.

Each month when I look at our Parish Council draft agenda I ask myself, are we going forward? Are there loose ends? Do we listen to villagers and respect their concerns? Do councillors know what is going on in the area, the district, or even the county? It is always hard to strike a balance between information and discussion. However, when I look at this team, I see a great deal of experience and am grateful for the time and effort you put into the work of our team. However, we have frustrations moving forward when other bodies are slow to respond. I'm planning to be a voice at the Town and Parish Councils Summit on October 26th.

This event is the first of *"a three-part engagement and consultation plan for the development of an Oxfordshire Local Councils Charter, organised by the Charter Working Group (a collaborative group made up of representatives from the county council, district councils, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and parishes and towns). The Charter aims to set out a mutual commitment for Oxfordshire's councils to work together and strengthen partnership working to improve services and outcomes for our residents, with emphasis on working with our 300+ Town and Parish Councils.*

This is an opportunity for us to shape the shared charter from the very beginning of its development, as well as raise the issues that matter most to your residents.
The event will include a presentation for attendees, followed by roundtable discussions facilitated by officers and the launch of a six-week online survey for all town and parish councils, which forms the second stage of our consultation and engagement plan.

I'm hoping that there will be some serious engagement by the district and the county.

Thank you