

4. Chair's Report – 2 September 2026

Last month I discussed the concept of village identity and the challenge we have with new villagers assimilating into the village with a sense “of village”, both historically and what we want to be now.

The challenge continues and I'm trying very hard to keep all councillors aware of changes and growth around us. In particular, how do these changes affect us and the way we look at the future- in potential growth, with increased traffic plus the development of the new unitary structure. All of this is reflected in tonight's agenda.

We need to explore how to share information and news across our group as well as the larger group.

If these comments prompt some thoughts from you, please share this with the group via WhatsApp or through a conversation.

News: since the agenda was produced further information has been sent regarding the Cherwell Local Plan. I've asked Timothy, our CDC Councillor to bring us up to date on where we are.

The National Association of Local Councils has written a very clear letter to the government. In the Chief Executives bulletin of August 20th, it was stated , “We welcome the [government's announcement](#) that the Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Regional Growth role now has an explicit reference to parish and town councils as one of the key responsibilities. This is another win for the sector and shows we are making our voice heard.”

We heard last month that the Oxfordshire Growth Strategy Chairman also made it clear that the voice of Neighbourhood Plans needs to be heard so communities can be part of shaping their future.

Thank you

Diane Bohm
Chair of WotG Parish Council