

Suggested topics for Overview and Scrutiny received from Parish Councils

1. Adderbury

Suggested topic - To identify whether current planning policies and guidance are producing homes fit to live in with specific reference to the adequacy of storage space for personal possessions and of vehicular transport off of the road.

Review could be carried out by identifying a selection of recent housing developments now occupied and survey residents as to their satisfaction levels.

Initial officer comments – The Planning process is governed by legislation and guidance, including minimum requirements for parking vehicles. On 5 March 2018 the Government published a draft of a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which is subject to consultation. Officers suggest that the proposed revisions to the NPPF are researched, to see if the issues raised by Adderbury Parish Council are covered, as well as gathering information on existing legislation and guidance.

The findings of the research to be reported back to the first meeting of the new Municipal Year in May 2018, and further discussion had at that time.

2. Kidlington

Suggested topic (1) – Decriminalised parking across the district

Due to issues with parking cross the district, a PCSO is in place to enforce parking regulations etc. In the past, Cherwell District Council (CDC) have approached Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) with a request to decriminalise parking, so that local wardens can enforce the restrictions instead. OCC were not able to do so, due to the cost of the local wardens and a restriction on the number of districts that could have them.

The view of OCC has recently changed, and the restriction on the number of districts has been lifted. Kidlington Parish Council have asked if CDC will reconsider the request to OCC to decriminalise parking in the district.

Initial officer comments – A potential subject to follow up, although not necessarily with a full Scrutiny review. The Assistant Director – Environmental Services will be asked to provide an update and enquiries to be made of OCC regarding the current position with decriminalised parking and restrictions, and discussions had with officers who oversee parking at CDC to find out if this would be a viable request.

Suggested topic (2) – Masterplans

The urban centres have had masterplans that have become supplementary planning documents to the local plan part one. What progress has been made on meeting the requirements and improvements in the masterplans, and if there isn't any progress what is being done to address this?

Initial officer comments – A potential subject to follow up, although not necessarily with a full Scrutiny review. Progress reports on each of the masterplans could be requested from relevant officers and scheduled for meetings across the new Municipal Year

3. Piddington

Suggested topic - Social exclusion of rural communities

Community First Oxfordshire published a Community profile (attached) of the Launton area, concentrating on Piddington. The report identifies Piddington as “relatively more deprived through lack of access to services, children and young people, and education and skills”.

Initial officer comments – A potential subject for review in the new Municipal Year. Further research to be carried out initially to see if similar Community Profiles have been published for other rural areas of the Cherwell District, and if similar issues have been identified elsewhere.

Findings to be reported back to the first meeting of the new Municipal year in May.

4. Shenington with Alkerton

Suggested topic - Inconsistencies in planning applications.

The parish have provided details of several planning applications that they feel have had inconsistencies in the way they were determined. Examples include local knowledge of the parish council being ignored, and consultation comments from other departments of the council being disregarded.

Initial officer comments – This is not a subject that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can get involved in. Planning applications are considered on a case by case basis, using relevant guidance and policy from central Government. The best course of action in this case would be for the details provided to be passed to the Planning department, to be discussed between the department and the parish council.

A further suggestion would be for officers from planning to attend a parish clerk forum to give an overview of the consultation process for planning applications, and to explain where parish comments fit in to the process. A similar presentation has been delivered to parish clerks at South Northamptonshire Council, and was very well received.