

Milcombe Annual Parish Meeting – 22.03.22

Report from District Councillor Hugo Brown

Since I last reported on 22nd Feb, for the PC Meeting of 1st March, there have been 0 meetings of Full Council and 1 meeting of the Executive (7th March) which agreed the contributions which CDC will make for the Queen's Jubilee Weekend

Executive, 7th March

- **Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Statement of Community Involvement** - This statement sets out how people and organisations can get involved in shaping the future of Oxfordshire. It updates and replaces the previous Statement of Community Involvement, published in June 2021. The Oxfordshire Plan is a joint statutory plan and covers the authorities of Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. The Oxfordshire Plan will provide a positive, high-level planning framework to guide the delivery of new homes, economic development and associated infrastructure across the county, with a bold ambition to confront our climate crisis, build a fairer and more prosperous economy, foster more thriving and accessible neighbourhoods and support a truly green recovery that protects the future of our environment and wildlife. This statement sets out Oxfordshire's approach to the effective engagement of people and organisations during the production of the Oxfordshire Plan. Early and meaningful engagement will help to ensure that planning policies in the emerging plan reflect the needs, aspirations and concerns of residents and businesses across Oxfordshire. A wide range of groups, organisations and individuals will be invited to participate in the plan preparation process, including Parish Councils. All consultation documents and relevant evidence will be made available online (via the Oxfordshire Plan web site, <https://oxfordshireplan.org>). The consultation stages are (i) Early informal consultation and engagement (regulation 18), (ii) Formal consultation on draft plan (regulation 19). Regulation 18 is the earliest stage of plan engagement and represents the scoping stage to decide what should be included within the plan. This includes potential policy options and spatial options. Due to the nature of this stage with its ambition to gain a variety of views on what could be included in the plan, multiple consultations can take place, of which two have taken place so far. Regulation 18 (part 2) consultations took place between July and October 2021 and the responses are currently being analysed. Regulation 19 is the second stage of the consultation process and is the stage at which the final draft version of the plan is published. At this stage, representations must relate to the tests relating to how the plan has been prepared (legal compliance) and its content (soundness), as outlined in government guidance. The public consultation represents the last opportunity to influence and help shape the direction of the plan before it is submitted to the secretary of state. Officers are also reviewing the Oxfordshire Plan work programme in the context of the feedback from the recent Regulation 18 (part 2) consultations and discussions with the government on the timings of future stages. This includes consideration of the inter-relationships between the Oxfordshire Plan and Local Plan reviews and other relevant supporting strategies (e.g. Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy). That detail must be worked through to help inform the next stages of the Oxfordshire Plan process, including the timetable through to adoption, and we will engage with the government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing

& Communities). The final two stages are (i) Submission and examination (regulations 22 and 34), (ii) Adoption (regulation 36).

- **COVID 19: Oxfordshire System Recovery and Renewal Framework** - System partners have worked closely together since early in 2020 to deliver a joined-up response across the board spectrum of COVID-19 impact. Partners have developed joint structures to support those required to stay at home, to encourage and enforce adherence to COVID restrictions, to monitor and contain the spread of the virus and to maintain the continuity of essential services. Joint responses have managed the impact on health and social care services and worked closely with education providers. From later in 2020 and into 2021, joint activity delivered community testing and latterly the successful roll out of the vaccination programme. Partnership interventions have also sought to address the secondary impacts of the pandemic for individuals, communities and businesses through joint work on community engagement, business support, financial hardship and economic recovery. The pandemic has led to economic, community and service impact that has yet to be fully understood at the system level. However, it can clearly be seen that existing inequalities and service and community pressures have been amplified, with likely long-term impacts. As with many pre-existing challenges, the impact and effective responses will often lie across several agencies and sectors. To coordinate and prioritise COVID and post-COVID activity, and prioritise resource allocation, partners agreed to develop a set of joint themes for the next phase in the pandemic period and to bring together shared system priorities and joint ambitions for recovery and renewal in an overarching framework. The framework for recovery and renewal is arranged around three key aims: (i) Consolidating recovery and building resilience: Protecting key services and keeping social life and the economy open by sustaining our system response to COVID-19 and working together on addressing new pressures. This includes changes to service delivery as well as ways of working e.g. engagement with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), businesses and key partners, (ii) Addressing the unequal impact of COVID-19: Proactively using qualitative and quantitative data and insight to identify the groups most impacted across a range of cross-cutting issues, beyond the immediate impact on health, and tackling impact with a focus on the total strengths and needs of individuals and families, (iii) Supporting renewal: Identifying new approaches and activities underpinned by the lessons we have learnt to date, building Oxfordshire's resilience, not only against future waves of the pandemic but also in terms of economic and community resilience to wider societal challenges including climate change and ecological impacts. Across the three themes, two cross cutting priorities are recognised as needing to inform recovery and renewal thinking across the county: (i) Climate change action Championing climate action across the County as we work together to address climate change, build climate resilience and support nature recovery, (ii) Tackling inequality Driving equal access and delivery of support across all local communities, narrowing health, social and educational inequalities and tackling poverty. The framework is necessarily a start point for longer term planning. Its aim is to act as a bridge between current partnership COVID response, delivery and planning, and future longer-term planning across the partnership agenda. It seeks to bring together, rather than replace, existing

county-wide plans and strategies and ensure that recovery and renewal activities are incorporated into the wider partnership context.

- **Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee** - Across the whole of the UK communities are being encouraged by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to take part in activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee during the weekend of 2-5 June 2022 and beyond. As with the Golden Jubilee (2002) and Diamond Jubilee (2012), towns and parishes are generally expected to take the lead on organising these activities in their communities with CDC enabling celebrations with a variety of supporting actions. The DLUHC has made suggestions as to how communities might like to come together to celebrate, such as: (i) Street Parties, (ii) The Big Jubilee Lunch – 2 to 5 June 2022, (iii) Beacon Lighting, (iv) Platinum Jubilee Events/projects organised by Local Authority-owned civic amenities, (v) National Lottery Funding, (vi) Using The Platinum Jubilee Emblem, (vii) Contributing to The Queen's Green Canopy, (viii) Entering the City Status Competition, (ix) Councils are welcome to organise and facilitate large scale Platinum Jubilee events and celebrations of their own choosing within their towns and cities, which could include their own civic occasion, for example, "The Mayor's Jubilee Party", (x) Local pageants, (xi) Broadcast the TV feed. For Cherwell District Council's part, it is proposed to: (i) establish a "one-off" grants scheme (£55,000) that will encourage and assist local communities across the district to hold celebratory events during the summer of 2022. It is proposed that this be similar in nature to the successful grant schemes which the Council offered to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and 90th Birthday in 2016; (ii) cover the fees for temporary road closures and Temporary Event Notices (TENs) where these are required by community events celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, (iii) create a dedicated web page with resources for organisations community celebrations and links to national projects such as the Queen's canopy and funding streams, (iv) provide support for additional waste and recycling collections through the normal process employed for larger events on a first come first served basis as physical resource allows. Applicants will be directed to include additional costs in their grant application and to the process for booking additional bins. Grants will be awarded to events that facilitate and encourage participation by the whole local community. Events should aim to bring people together and strengthen community spirit. Examples might be street parties or village festivals. Events must take place between 01 May and 30 September 2022. It is anticipated that most events will take place on the Jubilee weekend of 02-05 June, but this leeway is considered appropriate to take account of Jubilee celebrations taking place in association with established annual events. Parish authorities will be given the first opportunity to apply for grants. If a Parish Authority does not wish to apply, then properly constituted community groups will be able to apply for a grant towards a celebration in that parish; successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement with the Council. Awards will be based on size of parish / ward population and on the scope/nature of the event. Applications will be assessed, and grants awarded, on a first come, first served basis, subject to budget availability. Rural Parishes will be able to apply for a grant ranging from £100 per parish for the smallest parishes, up to £850 per parish for the largest parishes (plus 25% uplift where the parish is split into two settlements). It is proposed that the cost of Temporary Road Closures and Temporary

Event Notices (where required for an approved event) will be borne by the grant fund, in addition to the grant awarded. Grants can be spent on equipment and venue hire, entertainment, insurance, and local promotion/publicity. Commemorative items and food/drink are among the costs that are not eligible. Religious or political events will not be funded. The grant will be paid out in advance in order to aid cash flow and minimise the administrative burden for organisers in the lead-up to their events. Each organiser will be required to submit a short post-event report, including copies of eligible receipts to at least the value of the grant awarded. In the event of an underspend, the appropriate sum must be repaid to Cherwell District Council. Applications must be submitted by 15 May 2022. Grant forms and guidance will be available from a new Platinum Jubilee page on the CDC website. This will also direct to third party guidance on organising street parties and participating in national Jubilee commemorations including Beacon lighting and tree planting as part of the Queens Green canopy. It will also provide links to other Jubilee funding sources

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