



DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



Parish Liaison Meeting – 09 September 2026

The scheduled June Parish Liaison Meeting (PLM) was postponed whilst we awaited news on Local Government Reorganisation (further update on this below). Now that the Government's decision is known and we are beginning to put arrangements in place with our partner councils, we want to re-schedule the PLM, so we can keep you up to date.

The PLM will be on the evening of Wednesday 09 September. In order to maximise opportunities for participation it will be an online (MS Teams) meeting. The main agenda item will of course be Local Government reorganisation, but, as always with PLM we are keen to hear suggestions from parishes for other issues to be discussed. Please let us know your thoughts.

You will receive the PLM invitation next week. In the meanwhile, please be sure to inform your councillors of the date.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

All parishes will have received the email on 16 July outlining the government's 'minded to' LGR decision for Oxfordshire. The relevant legal structures will be triggered by a formal 'Structural Change Order' which we expect in the autumn. The partner councils have been asked to feed in ahead of that, with a deadline of 17 August.

A number of workstreams are feeding into the response, including ward boundaries, Deputy Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) arrangements for the three future unitaries, Returning Officer responsibilities and the timing of parish council elections.

Bicester Garrison – Asylum Accommodation Proposal

This week, planning colleagues met with Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government MHCLG officials regarding the proposed use of the Bicester Garrison Site A for asylum accommodation. The meeting provided some helpful information on the Urgent Crown Development process, including Cherwell's role as a statutory consultee, and how MHCLG as the determining authority approaches this type of application.

While the discussion gave us a better understanding of the process, there is still very little certainty around timescales. We do not yet know when the application will be registered by MHCLG, when it will be published, or the scope for making representations. Once an application is received, the council will be responsible for publicising it through our website and we will keep parishes updated as more information becomes available.

Change to publication of Town / Parish Councillor Addresses on Websites / Register of Interest Forms – withheld unless explicit consent given

If you are a member of OALC, you will have received information regarding changes to the publication of councillor home addresses in light of Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 recently coming into force. Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 (added via the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026) establishes that local authority members' home addresses are no longer published in public registers of interests by default. Addresses remain withheld unless a member explicitly requests public publication.

What this means for Register of Interest forms: Previously if a councillor wanted their home address withheld on the published Register of Interest form, they needed to request this of the CDC Monitoring Officer. S32A of the Localism Act 2011, reverses this, meaning that addresses are withheld as a matter of course and only published if a councillor submits a written request to the CDC Monitoring Officer via democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk that their address be published. Councillors must still declare their full address details on the Register of Interest form which is submitted to the CDC Monitoring Officer to prevent conflicts of interest. This is held on file by the Monitoring Officer. Councillors must still make any relevant declarations in respect of their address at meetings. The CDC Democratic and Elections Team is in the process of

going through the register of interest forms we hold for parish councillors and redacting addresses and including a note “Address withheld under S32A, Localism Act”.

What this means for councillor contact details on your website: Home addresses should no longer be published on a parish council website unless explicit consent is given in writing by the councillor.

Updating Oxfordshire County Council on any parish council clerk or contact detail changes

A reminder that CDC and Oxfordshire County Council both hold separate lists of parish council contact details on their respective websites: [CDC](#) and [OCC](#), which are not linked. Therefore, please do ensure you notify both CDC via democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk and OCC via parishcouncilamendments@oxfordshire.gov.uk of any contact detail changes.

Annual Canvass 2026

Each year the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must conduct an annual canvass to ensure the Electoral Register is accurate and complete. The 2026 Annual Canvass started on 29 July 2026 and the revised electoral register will be published on 1 December 2026. You will be required to submit a new register request form to receive a copy of the full register when published, and subsequent updates. The Democratic and Elections team will be in touch with the form in the autumn. In the meantime, information about the canvass is available on our [website](#).

Summer Events Calendar

The Cherwell Youth Activators will be running a series of free events throughout the summer holidays to keep children active. These include free park and playzone sessions with a different sport focus each week at parks in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. They will also be hosting two carousel activity sessions where children and their families can come along and try some arts and crafts, physical activity and a food activity. On 19th August, the Activators are hosting a Have-a-go event from 1-3pm at Spiceball Leisure Centre where families can drop in and try a range of sports and activities for free. During the last week of August, there is an Active Leaders course taking place in Banbury for 14-18 year olds to learn valuable leadership skills (costs £50 for the 5 day course). For more information including dates, times, locations and

booking information please visit <https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/youmovecherwell> and click on the 'Where to find the Activators this summer' image at the top of the page to view the PDF. You can also follow @youthactivators on Instagram to keep up to date with activities in your local area.

See attached programme

Grants up to £100,000 Available for Community & Environmental Projects

- Not-for-profit organisations, including charities and local councils, can apply for grants of up to £100,000 for community amenities, conservation and biodiversity projects including community buildings, play areas, MUGAs, skate/BMX parks, sports facilities, hireable church spaces, parks/woodlands, nature reserves and museums.
- To be eligible, projects must be located on a single site within 10 miles of an FCC Environment facility. The funding is being made available through the FCC Environment Action Fund.
- Applicants include registered charities, churches/PCCs, parish or town councils, local authorities and CASC sports clubs.
- The deadline for applications is 5pm on 19 August 2026

<https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund>

Funding for Innovative Rewilding Projects

- Grants of up to £15,000 are available for locally-led land and marine rewilding projects in England, Scotland and Wales from the Rewilding Innovation Fund to support innovative projects seeking to create new opportunities for large -scale nature restoration.
- Eligible projects can cover a wide range of activities, from community engagement and feasibility studies to technological innovations and strategic planning. Land-based projects must cover at least 40 hectares of contiguous land, while marine projects can be of any size.
- Applicants must be members of the Rewilding Network (applicants may join at the point of application), which could include community groups, and private and public landowners / land managers. 3

- The closing date for applications is 5 September 2026

<https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/how-to-rewild/funding-for-rewilding/rewilding-innovation-fund>

CDC Council and Committee Meetings

Meetings currently scheduled for the coming month are:

- Planning Committee at 4.00pm on Thursday 13 August
- Planning Committee at 4.00pm on Thursday 3 September
- Executive at 6.30pm on Monday 7 September

To view a CDC council meeting– go to the [Browse Meetings Page](#) of our website, select the relevant committee and the meeting date. Click on “View the webcast” on the agenda webpage.

Staying Up To Date

Get the latest news direct to your inbox

[Sign up for Cherwell Link](#)

This is a briefing emailed to all Cherwell Parishes

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Our main office is:

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You will easily find us in the Castle Quay shopping mall, opposite Lock 29. You can find directions and more information through our normal digital channels, such as our website and social media, and use our website to get in touch and report things.

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