

Cherwell District Council - January 2026

Planning

The January Planning Committee meeting included five contentious planning applications all of which were refused. Four of these were a re-submission of the Distribution warehouses at Baynard's Green. Same application numbers and same plan details. The other a development at the Moors in Kidlington.

The planning committee had a slightly different membership as the lead member for planning was away and her substitute moved for rejection on each of the four applications.

Having listened to the concerns of the residents of the Ward I asked:

Can none of the ecology funding be spent on green corridors, rewilding or other green projects that the parishes have in mind? No.

What about all the ANPR technology in Oxford City I wonder!

Is there no way to have a TRO or similar that is enforced by ANPR cameras to try to protect the villages from HGV traffic? No.

Is there any way to CIL, unilateral undertaking or a council contribution in lieu of avoiding appeal costs that we could find funding to support projects in these communities? No.

Hey ho. Roll on OxSRFI, Puy du Fou and Dorchester Groups planning applications.

Overview and Scrutiny

The O&S Committee heard from our Police and Crime commissioner and the Chief Constable who were detailing the welcome improvements in 101 response time, force priorities and the significant increase in staffing.

He also announced the launch of the new AI chat bot called... "Bobbi"

Thames Valley Police Rural Forum

Met in Broughton on the 13th January and will next meet in either Bloxham or Hook Norton in the spring.

The local teams' priorities are set at these meetings and are well worth attending to have your say on what the police should be focusing on.

Local Plan

The initial hearings start week commencing 16th February and I'd welcome any progress to get the Local Plan made as soon as possible.

The current 5-year housing land supply position is 3.1.

Local Government Association – Councillors Forum

I attended the most recent forum in order to ask Georgia Gould the Minister of State for School Standards questions posed by the Governors of one of our Primary Schools. The approach was timely as the White Paper on education and SEND is due soon and I hope this helps Primary Schools everywhere.

Oxfordshire Rural and Community-Led Housing Steering Group

Community First Oxfordshire invited me to their most recent meeting to talk about the loss of affordable housing from a development in Deddington. What was interesting about this was the use of the mortgagee in possession clause in the Section 106 agreement. This is a rarely used section of the document which was invoked by the administrator to protect the creditors after the developer went into liquidation.

What we hope to do is explore whether an addition clause can be added into Section 106 agreements to allow the community to step in should a registered housing provider not be available to manage the affordable house.

CDC are currently exploring the possibility of modifying the mortgagee in possession clauses.

Bicester and Surrounding Villages Movement and Place Plan

This was discussed and challenged over a number of issues including the feedback process and why the plan was so quiet on improving life in the villages.

Objective BSV11 was much discussed and challenged on why it was Bicester focused and ignored the impact related to development this area faces. A push for ANPR protection for the rural hinterland is very much in my mind and I'm delighted that the officers at OCC have expressed a willingness to make this policy. Should this document be modified and adopted it can be used as evidence for developer contribution needs.

Cllr David Rogers

Cherwell District Council