

Anne Richardson
Corporate Projects Officer
South Oxfordshire District Council

Binfield Heath CLP
Steering Group

July 25, 2016

Binfield Heath Community Led Plan

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your letter of July 2016 containing South Oxfordshire District Council's comments on the Binfield Heath Community Led Plan (CLP). I appreciate the comments and on behalf of our CLP steering group I would like to thank you and also Fiona Mullins, of Community First Oxfordshire, for the advice and guidance given to us as we have progressed from our first Parish Plan, issued in 2013, through to the new CLP which is essentially a refresh of the original plan. Both documents will be placed on our website at www.binfieldheath.org.uk

May I make the following comments that the steering group believes addresses the key issues in your letter:

- Our CLP has now been formally issued to the Binfield Heath community at large and is now available on our website. Hard copies have also been printed and are available. Therefore I would like to agree with your suggestion that your letter is "kept as a reference for your working groups to use" together with this response. I plan to place your letter and this response on our website.
- The advice, links and contact points provided in your letter are greatly appreciated and I am sure we will need to engage with some or all of them as we move forward with our action plan. This action plan is currently being prepared and is scheduled to be discussed at our Parish Council Meeting tonight.
- As you are aware, planning remains an important issue in our parish and our survey highlighted a desire for Binfield Heath to retain its Small Village designation. However, your letter advises that new

regulations are being formulated through the SODC Local Plan 2032 and that this could affect smaller villages. This is a potential area of concern to us but we note that the consultation process is underway and we will clearly need to participate. You may be interested to know that in the last 2 years, planning applications for 13 new houses in the parish have either been approved or are pending. This represents a 5 per cent increase in our housing stock, which in part led us to undertake the planning survey conducted at the end of 2015. The survey showed that 73 per cent of respondents are happy with the size of the current population. Moreover, 81 per cent believe that the present number of houses in the parish is correct (full details of the Survey have been distributed to each household within the parish). This message is one that we, as a community, must support.

- Finally, with regard to your request to change the word “endorsed” to “reviewed” in the planning section, our steering group had understood that you had endorsed the survey results when we met you and your team on November 18, 2015. If there has been a misunderstanding on this point then I do apologise.

Once again, thank you for your advice and guidance and I will let you have a copy of our action plan in the near future.

I will copy this letter to Fiona Mullins at Community First Oxfordshire

Yours Sincerely,

Roger Roberts
Binfield Heath CLP Steering Group