



Listening Learning Leading

Mr Roger Roberts
Binfield Heath Community Led
Plan Review, Steering Group

Councillor John Cotton
Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council

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Dear Roger,

South Oxfordshire District Council comments on Binfield Heath Community Led Plan Review

Congratulations on completing the review of the Binfield Heath Community Led Plan (CLP), a few years after you completed the original parish plan in 2013. I understand that the plan review was handed over to the parish council to take forward the proposed actions, so please forward this note to the parish clerk and councillors as well as other key people involved in the development and delivery of the plan.

Undertaking a review of your original plan is a good way to celebrate what you've achieved so far, check how your actions are progressing, and maintain community enthusiasm and support. The review highlights the successes you've had and shows that many of the eight actions identified in the original plan in 2013 have been successfully completed. It also shows that the vast majority of the six activities set out have been maintained and are still ongoing. This is a credit to the community and I hope these activities are able to continue well into the future.

A copy of your community led plan review was passed to all relevant teams in the council so that officers can take account of the opinions and preferences of your whole community where appropriate. Below are responses to your plan review from teams across the council which I hope will be useful. These comments are provided to help and support you in delivering your action plan, and to support the continuing improvement of your community over the coming months and years. I understand that you were also provided with comments and guidance a few months ago so please do refer to these points as well.

Sports and leisure

Cath Dale, Participation Officer (cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 422 222) can offer help to clubs and communities who are looking to find funding for sports activities and can also offer advice on increasing participation in sports and activities.

In addition to this Ruth Cross, Leisure Development Officer (ruth.cross@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 422 212) can provide information and advice to parishes on the provision of leisure facilities in communities.

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Leisure team if you have any further queries.

Economic development

Suzanne Malcolm, Economic Development Manager (suzanne.malcolm@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 422 217) wanted to clarify that Binfield Heath falls under the Chilterns LEADER area and not the Oxfordshire area. Therefore the correct contact is Amber Kelly at the Chilterns LEADER programme amber.kelly@ngagesolutions.co.uk.

Community safety

Karen Brown, Community Safety Team Leader (karen.brown@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 422 592) had the following advice.

Having looked at the action plan, Binfield Heath may wish to contact Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (TVCRC) for assistance with litter picking, clearing verges and overgrown pathways in public spaces. TVCRC arrange for offenders who have been given Community Payback sentences, community placements whereby they give back to communities. If this is of interest they can contact Diane Major on 01869 328 500 for more information. All offenders are supervised by a member of the TVCRC.

Planning

Planning matters are a key focus of the CLP review and I understand that you have already contacted the planning policy team to discuss neighbourhood planning. With this in mind I wanted to add a reference from the 'neighbourhood plan or community led plan?' guide produced by the council which summarises the differences between neighbourhood plans and community led plans. I understand you've been provided this before but thought it was worth including here that with regards to planning the guide states that:

Neighbourhood plans are made part of the district's development plan following examination and referendum, which gives it considerable weight in determining planning applications.

A CLP has no formal weight, although it can be taken into account in determining planning applications if it covers issues that are material planning considerations. A CLP is useful in giving a community perspective on issues such as preferred sites, but it could not be used to justify refusing or granting planning permission.

Our new neighbourhood planning policy officer is Ricardo Rios, and can be contacted on Ricardo.rios@southandvale.gov.uk.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if the council can offer you any further support or help in delivering your village plan. Here at the council, we're keen to support community led plans so would be very pleased to hear how you're getting on as the plan progresses. If there is any further information or support that you need please contact me directly or through Anne Richardson (anne.richardson@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 422 109).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cotton".

Councillor John Cotton
Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council

Cc Councillor Paul Harrison, South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Will Hall, South Oxfordshire District Council
Anne Richardson, South Oxfordshire District Council
Laurence Bunch, Oxfordshire County Council
Hilary Lombard, Community First Oxfordshire