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Listening Learning Leading

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

Anne Richardson
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Dear Roger,

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

Thank you for sending Binfield Heath's draft Community Led Plan review to the district council as we appreciate the opportunity to comment before it is finalised. Thank you for giving us a few extra days to respond to you as I know you are keen to finalise the document as soon as possible. I asked colleagues from teams across the council to provide feedback and suggestions and incorporated them with my own, which we hope will be useful. I realise that you are going to print imminently but hope that any suggestions in this document can be either incorporated if you feel appropriate, or kept as reference for your working groups to use. You received feedback on your draft plan from Fiona Mullins at Community First Oxfordshire and I want to formally endorse her comments and suggestions.

General comments

The plan includes a good range of actions for your community to take forward. You've also explained how much has taken place since the main CLP was published in 2013, which shows what an active community you have. Where the district council can support you or provide information or guidance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

In the introduction, please could you make the following amendments to your text as the sentence 'It is designated a small village under the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy, Policy CSR1.' is now out of date and therefore incorrect. Our planning policy team suggests the following wording as a replacement:

Binfield Heath is designated as a 'smaller village' in the South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2032 Preferred Options document, published in June 2016. Policy CSR1 from the Core Strategy, which allowed 'smaller villages' like Binfield Heath some infill development, is currently under review in a consultation of the Local Plan 2032 Preferred Options.

The Local Plan 2032 Preferred Options consultation is open for comments until 19 August 2016. To take part please visit our consultation portal using this link:

<https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/?q%3Aform-2297580%3Aquestion-4=South>

Please refer to Section 11 Housing in our Rural Communities on page 85, and Appendix 2 'The Settlement Hierarchy' on page 93, using this link <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SODC%20LP2032%20preferred%20options%20low-res.pdf>

More information is on our website, including dates of a series of local events: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2032>

I suggest you include a date on the cover page as part of the title, and also refer to this plan as a review or refresh, e.g. Binfield Heath Community Led Plan Review 2016'. The first time you refer to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty include (AONB) in brackets so that you can use the acronym throughout the rest of the document.

Section 3, Actions & Activities – it wasn't immediately clear that this refers to the 2013 plan, so I suggest you include a date here. Similarly, the section 'The six activities and their current status are:' at the bottom of page 4 could be in bold and with reference to the date of the relevant plan.

In the last paragraph of the Planning section on page 7, please could you change the wording to read 'South Oxfordshire District Council reviewed the survey results...' rather than 'endorsed', because as you may remember we did not have the opportunity to comment on the draft resident survey before it was finalised.

Grants Funding

There may be some funding available from the district council to take advantage of, such as for your play area. Please contact our Grants Team Leader, Jayne Bolton (Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk) for more information and other ideas of what we can fund, and also check our website for details of what grants are available using this link: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants-and-community-loans>

I thought I would add a reminder that that Oxfordshire LEADER scheme has money available to support rural businesses across Oxfordshire. The four themes are growing, selling and eating more local food; vibrant villages; reviving the River Thames and associated waterways; or unlocking the potential of our woodlands and this could be a source of funding worth exploring. You can find out more on www.oxfordshireleader.org.uk or contact Sophie Milton by email: Oxfordshire.Leader@southandvale.gov.uk

Housing and Planning

As your plan explores the need for affordable housing, you might want to contact our Housing Development Officer, Jan Phillips (janice.phillips@southandvale.gov.uk) who may be able to support you and answer any questions you have.

As planning matters are a focus of your new plan, for planning application queries or information you can contact Sharon Crawford (sharon.crawford@southandvale.gov.uk) in our development management team.

I note that you have already spoken with our planning policy team about neighbourhood planning, but wanted to include Charlotte Colver's email address (charlotte.colver@southandvale.gov.uk) as she can provide advice and guidance on neighbourhood planning or direct you to other members of the planning policy team (planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk)

Sports and Leisure

You mention a desire to revive monthly local walks in the village so I wanted to mention that our leisure team run a range of current sport and leisure programmes which may be relevant to your parish. You can contact our participation officer, Cath Dale (cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk) for more information and support.

Good luck as you progress the final plan. Please let me know if there is any further information I can provide.

With best wishes

Anne

Anne Richardson
Corporate Projects Officer

Cc Paul Harrison, South Oxfordshire District Council
Will Hall, South Oxfordshire District Council
Sarah Jelley, Oxfordshire County Council
Fiona Mullins, Community First Oxfordshire