

Latest news on the Local Plan

You may have seen the latest letter from the Secretary of State to South Oxfordshire. It is on the public website here:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/2020/2020-03/south-oxfordshire-local-plan-update

He has for a second time prevented South Oxfordshire from debating issues on the Local Plan. He has decided, for reasons that I and others believe are highly debateable with evidence to back up our belief, that we are one of the most uncooperative councils regarding having an up to date Local Plan. Of course, on anyone's estimation, the delay caused by his direction has made any Plan we have or may adopt even more out of date. I am most disappointed by his about-turn from indicating through his officials that there was some flexibility for us as a Council if we agreed to see the Plan through inspection to forcing us to see it through without any indication of what he perceives our position as a Council should be.

I and my fellow councillors are extremely concerned about this turn of events. I'm afraid I do not know at this time whether the meeting on Thursday evening of the Council will have any public participation. Officers will contact those who have registered to let them know, I believe they took phone numbers this time after the last meeting debacle.

At this stage I do not have much more to add. We will be, of course, discussing this a great deal in Council and preparing for the examination in public that the inspectors will hold, probably in the early summer but it could be even earlier. If you or your community have registered to appear at the examination, it would be good to start preparing for that as soon as possible.

As ever, please contact me with questions, comments etc. I am sorry this is not better news. I will keep you updated.

Kind regards,

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

South Oxfordshire District Councillor for Sandford and The Wittenhams Ward:

Sandford on Thames, Nuneham Courtenay, The Baldons, Clifton Hampden, Burcot, The Wittenhams and Culham

South Oxfordshire District Council Cycling Champion

Part of the Green Party Group in the Libdem/Green Party Partnership