



Charlbury Neighbourhood Development Plan Progress Update for Charlbury Town Council June 2021

1 Plan now adopted!

As you will all be aware, the Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan successfully negotiated its final hurdle with the referendum on 10th June at which an impressive 94% of those voting, supported the plan. The referendum result is shown in section 3 below.

Following this result, WODC has now “Made” the Plan which means that it now forms part of the statutory development plan against which planning applications within the parish of Charlbury will be determined.

The decision to “Make” (bring into force) the Plan was taken by WODC on **Monday 14th June** so the plan has legal weight from that date.

So WODC now has an obligation to take account of policies and objectives of the Plan when deciding planning applications but it will be of crucial importance for Charlbury Town Council to remain diligent as a consultee on planning applications by explicitly referencing relevant policies and paragraphs in the plan where they are relevant to specific applications. If we don’t do this, no one else will!

The official referendum result and WODC Decision Statement are both available to view on the WODC website at <https://westoxon.gov.uk/charlbury> under “Making of Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan”

2 Copies of the Made Plan

The Made Plan is available to download from the WODC website at <https://westoxon.gov.uk/media/0pthvr5t/made-charlbury-neighbourhood-plan-2031-14-06-2021.pdf> and will also be available from the Charlbury TC website.

Astrid Harvey at WODC has agreed to print up to 3 copies of the plan for us available in A4 ring binders. Two further copies were produced ahead by WODC and placed in the Community Centre ahead of the referendum and these are now available and can be retrieved from the centre if necessary. Councillors should consider whether these copies are sufficient. As a minimum, I suggest that the Clerk should hold a copy and that two copies should be available in the library for members of the public. If we would like additional copies and/or if we want professionally bound copies, the Town Council will need to arrange and fund this through a printer.

As an indication, we had 30 copies printed by Kopyrite, Chipping Norton, for the Regulation 14 consultation in autumn 2019 at a cost of £480. Clearly, we wouldn’t need that many but a run of 10 may be appropriate.

3 Referendum Result

To the question “*Do you want West Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Charlbury to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*”:

- 568 (94.2%) answered Yes
- 35 (5.8%) answered No

The turnout was 24.79% and there were no rejected ballot papers.