# Letcombe Regis Parish Council

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4 The Old Stables Warborough Road Letcombe Regis OX12 9LD

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.55pm Due to the Government Covid-19 Regulations the meeting was held as a virtual meeting using the Zoom Platform. The first 5 minutes were for meeting preparation

Present: Jeanne Lapsley (JL) Chairman. Loretta Light (LL) Vice Chair

Councillors, David Barber (DB), Paul Batchelor (PB), Michelle Benton (MB), Kristine Hitchcock (KH) and

Elizabeth Jenkins (EJ) Parish Clerk

District Councillor Paul Barrow

Item		Actions
1.	<ul> <li>Update from Phil Hodgson (PH) on the Burial Ground Improvements</li> <li>Summary from PH (emailed round to Councillors, and copied here for clarity draft plan included as Appendix A)</li> <li>I have spoken with the tree officer again and agreed a more pragmatic approach to calculating the Root Protection Zone. I then re-measured the trunk and this shows a significant reduction in the area of no dig. As a result it is feasible to return to the original idea of an aisle with parking on both sides.</li> <li>I have been in contact with the Planning Officer. She has advised that we will need to re-submit but if we do thefore Feb 2021 (within 1 year of the previous) then it will be at much reduced cost. The current discharge of condition application has been withdrawn.</li> <li>The revised layout shows 20 spaces plus 2 disabled. If the costs come in too high then we can always shorten the length of the car park accordingly and extend it when finances permit.</li> <li>as discussed before, to reduce costs, I propose to: Provide gravel spaces (extend disabled) with a bitmac surfaced central aisle to avoid drainage gullies, pipe and soakaways and to reduce the area of surfacing. Use footpath edging in place of precast concrete kerbs and use gravel boards at the back of the parking bays. Spread and level all excavated material (mainly topsoil) onto the area on the other side of the tennis courts rather than it be taken off-site.</li> <li>I have agreed the method of construction within the no dig zone with the tree officer. As this will be mainly above existing level it will allow a fall of approximately 1 in 60 across the aisle for rainwater to drain into the gravel parking area opposite.</li> <li>I have agreed the method of construction within the no dig zone with the tree officer. As this will be mainly above existing level it will allow a fall of</li> </ul>	Actions

parking area opposite.

• The no dig zone prevents the construction of the entrance porch in the location previously shown. All of the gravestones are set facing the Basset Road and so an approach from the car park would be to the back of the graves which I thought looks a bit odd. I have therefore positioned the porch by the entrance with a gravel path along the 'open ground' so that graves can be easily accessed from the side. It is also convenient for the disabled spaces and the hearse can pull up alongside. I am not sure if this is the best location for the porch so I have shown the position of the gravestones taken from the site survey and am open to suggestions!

# **Update from Phil Hodgson at the meeting arising from the discussions.**

Cllrs Lapsley and Frewer had pointed out that the gravel pathway could not use anyone with mobility issues to access to the burial ground.

PH had moved the parking area alongside the tennis courts back by half a metre to prevent people driving into the wire fencing, and to assist with the levels for the car park. The entrance porch will need to be moved as it is currently in the root protection area. It could be moved to the corner of the proposed extension and as Cllr Lapsley suggested it would give an overview of the burial ground or it could either be moved into a parking bay outside the root protection zone from where it would allow an overall view of the Burial Ground. Cllr Barber asked whether the Trustees would allow the spoil to be placed on the recreation ground where the spoil from the tennis courts and the pavilion had been placed which needs to be levelled. The Clerk suggested including a beech hedge along the boundary between the burial ground and the current car park. This could eventually replace the chain link fencing. However would need to be retained for the time being to stop unwanted ingress into the Burial Ground.

After discussion PH suggested that he marked out the areas under discussion for Councillors to view and make any suggestions.

Cllr Lapsley thanked him for his input and he left the meeting.

# 2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from County Councillor Constance and Cllr Frewer.

### 3. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

# 4. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020

Councillors approved the minutes.

#### 5. Actions Arising:

From Julie Mabberley Update re Wantage Hospital

No reply received from the Secretary of State to the PC's letter re Wantage Hospital. Cllr Lapsley will send a further letter requesting a reply. Cllr Lapsley confirmed she had not written to date but would do so. To be carried forward to next meeting

JL

### Village Warden

Clerk to bring the suggested programme to the next PC meeting for discussion. To be discussed at the PC in January.

**ALL** 

#### Item 6C

**6 iii) Lighting for the football pitch** A meeting had been arranged but the other party had put it in for the wrong month. A new date has been agreed. Cllr Batchelor said that he would contact the District Council for guidance on the consultation.

PB

# 6 iv) Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

The Clerk pointed out that the CEP needed amending to conform to GDPR before placing on the website. **To be completed** 

Item 8 ii) Draft Letter to J Birch - For approval

Councillors approved the draft letter.

#### **Item 12**

# Village Items:

PCSO Tom Wallcott-Smith to report to the Clerk when the Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been employed. Tom had informed the Parish Clerk he was unable to use SID at the bottom of Court Hill Road, as there was no payement within the constraints of the regulations and unable to set up on the road itself for the same reasons. He had set up SID on the Bassett Road. - Completed

# 6. | County Council Matters:

Cllr Constance was unable to join the meeting due to an earlier meeting which ran late. However she had, that afternoon, sent a report from Oxford County Council (OCC) (see Appendix B) which was forwarded to Councillors just before the meeting.

The Chairman asked if anyone had had a chance to read the update and Cllr Light said that Cllr Light said that Cllr Constance appeared to have taken the view that we are not getting the alternative to lock-down as put forward by various scientists and has some doubts as to whether it was the right thing to do.

Of interest is the civil parking enforcement as Cllr light understood it OCC will deliver on street parking for City, West Oxfordshire, Cherwell and South and Vale and assume that OCC have officers who will come out to do the parking enforcement as the police do not have time to do this. She is also hoping in time to have village wardens who will enforce parking in villages. That might well be of interest to us, Cllr Barrow cConfirmed that the District Council had discussed this gave more up to date information. It was likely districts would approve it but he did not know the details. Cllr Batchelor asked what happens when a parking fine is issued where do the resources go? Cllr Barrow will point out that this needs more thought on how this would be accomplished.

**PB-DC** 

Cllr Lapsley mentioned the Cllr Priorities fund. Cllr Constance said she was waiting to hear the cost of the Letcombe to Wantage footpath improvements. The Clerk had previously understood from Mark Francis of OCC that the quote was for £140K and Cllr Constance's fund was only £14K. A reduced scheme should be explored. Mark Francis is to be consulted.

PC

Cllr Constance also mentioned the Planning White Paper and Cllr Lapsley asked if Cllr Barrow had picked up anything on this, he replied that he had contacted Parish Councils to say if anyone was unhappy with this they should make their feelings well known. The District Council has contacted the Secretary of State about this the main issue being loss of control. Cllr Lapsley said that they appear to have done an about turn having learnt about the great dissatisfaction.

JL

Cllr Lapsley had intended speaking to Cllr Constance about the Bablakes flooding problems. To be carried forward to next meeting.

#### 7. District Council Matters:

Cllr Barrow update Councillors on the BOAT meeting which was held with affected parishes. He noted that Letcombe Regis had been unable to attend due to the lack of internet stability.

A number of options were discussed and he had been in contact with Hugh Potter and Mike Walker at OCC to explore what the most appropriate approach would be. West Berks had a very similar problem at Bucklebury Common and after discussion it was agreed to take a monitoring approach for the next year 4 x 4 s would be banned from using the byways with motorbikes being allowed access which would show whether they were causing a problem, if so they would also be included. There would be appropriate signage to cover this and it is hoped that this would solve the problem. OCC plan to repair the bridleways late next spring. Cllr Barrow had approached Logs Unlimited and they planned to drop tree trunks where the concrete blocks had been stolen from at the entrance to Green Lane off Windmill Hill and at the other end. He confirmed he would circulate photos he had taken on the bridleway near the windmill at Brill in Buckinghamshire which had semi-permanent barriers which can be taken out anCd locked in place. He would also send to Hugh Potter at OCC. There will be an initial two year management as already described with appropriate signs being placed where needed.

**PB-DC** 

Cllr Hitchcock pointed out that bikers took no notice of the signs, had no number plates and if approached were abusive. It was noted 4 x 4's had been using the Ridgeway the police had been called but were unable to find them and they were unable to come out later when they were seen again.

Cllr Barrow will send a report through for Councillors to give their thoughts about the recent AONB meeting, He is a member of the Council of Partners and there are proposals to rebadge the area. There have also been discussions about the integration of Buckingham, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Health into one of these BOB's integrated care systems. Cllr Barrow will keep the PC informed of further developments.

PB-DC

# 8. | Parish Council Matters:

#### i) Christmas Tree

Due to Covid-19 the Rotary Club are not ordering Christmas Trees this year. Councillors agreed to increase the budget for this years from £75 to £100 to cover the possible increase in cost. Cllr Lapsley would purchase the tree and said that the Clerk and her husband should not be expected to install it this year and Cllr Batchelor agreed to take this task on. The Clerk had received permission for it to be connected to the Church's electricity supply. The equipment for the tree, stand, electrics and

ropes etc. is stored in the loft of the village hall and would need to be collected in time for the tree to be installed at the beginning of December. The equipment was cleaned when it was dismantled and the timer is set up ready for use.

PB/EJ

# ii) Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

Purchase of emergency mobile and walkie talkie sets - Cllr Benton had compiled a list of alternative walkie talkies. She will send the list to Cllr Barber for his information and comment. The Walkie Talkie needs the longest range and battery power.

MB/DB

Cllr Batchelor recommended looking at 5G for the mobile which would give better signal reception.

# iii) Lighting request for football pitch

Update from Cllr Batchelor was given earlier.

### iv) CPRE re 2050 Plan for Oxfordshire for discussion

Cllr Lapsley would ask Cllr Constance to keep the Parish Council updated.

JL

# v) Bablakes Planning application

The Flooding outside Bablakes remains a concern and it was pointed out that residents had previously been stranded in the area. It was not known if the flooding actually impacted the garden of Bablakes. The Clerk would enquire.

EJ

# 9. | Covid-19 Update

The Chairman confirmed that the bulletin is now only sent out when specific information is needed to be sent to residents. The Covid-19 team had recently invited volunteers to a Zoom meeting when they thanked them for stepping forward. Volunteers spoke about the type of help they were giving residents, although some felt that they had not had very much to do. Cllr Light said that there had been some good advice and it had been decided that the Covid-19 team should become a subcommittee of the Parish Council. They will send reports to the PC but would also be able to make decisions on spend for items such as PPE. The clerk had previously let them know that as a sub-committee they would also need to minute and publish the meetings in the same way as did the full Parish Council.

JL/LL/ MB

The Chairman asked that Councillors would approve the following proposal.

Formalisation of the Pandemic Team as a sub-committee of the Parish Council (see later suggestion on changing the name by Cllr Batchelor)

# Terms of Reference – Pandemic Group

- o To consist of three Councillors (Quorate with two)
- To meet as needed to respond to the Pandemic
- o To take appropriate decisions to ensure the safety of the village
- To have the power to take decisions relating to Parish Council Funds up to the value of £500, before referring to full Parish Council
- To be empowered to securely retain personal details for the duration of the Pandemic to enable support to vulnerable parishioners

- o To report back to Full Parish Council at each regular meeting
- o To co-ordinate and support volunteers
- o To provide timely information

Councillors approved the setting up of the team and approved the funding. Cllr Batchelor later suggested that Covid-19 was changed to Pandemic to cover any future occurrences and this was agreed.

**Councillors updates** (if anything to report)

# 10. Cllr Barber

Millennium Green benches - These would be moved to the final position when help was available. There is still one in storage up at the farm. Cllr Benton suggested that it could now be used on the Burial Ground and this was agreed.

#### **Cllr Batchelor**

Airband update - Cllr Batchelor said that Airband had not replied to any of his emails. The original plan was to organise a meeting with residents, to give the details of the offers and pros and cons of using their system compared with other systems; also to discuss what packages residents, who already had packages, would lose out on; and how to transfer land lines to any other arrangement. Until they come back to us we cannot go any further forward. Cllr Batchelor would continue to follow up.

**Cllr Hitchcock** 

Childrens playground - Nothing to add just to express delight that the Playground warning notices had been placed on the Bassett Road

# **Cllr Lapsley**

Confirmation that the second half of the maintenance grant had been sent to The Trustees. She expressed her disappointment that the PC had not been contacted by Newbury Street Practice who were running the flu clinic in the village hall. She had also received a report from Clir Benton said that she had attended the clinic at the time she was invited. She reported that Volunteer wardens had been brought in from outside the village to direct the traffic and cars were dangerously parked opposite the village hall just past the corner and along the road which was causing problems. It was obvious that there were people coming in from outside the village, which is obviously an infection control risk. Cllr Hitchcock said that we need to think about the vaccinations when available, she has been approached by several residents saying that the village hall would be a good venue for the village. If the hall is offered for this use it should be managed well and the PC should be involved. A letter was being sent to the senior doctor at the practice.

**Cllr Light** 

Millennium Green - The Letcombe Brook Project report has been sent to Councillors for their information. Mark Bradfield is setting up a Riparian Owners Group and is asking anyone whose land borders the brook to join the group. Cllr Light will be putting the information in the Register encouraging Riparian owners to join and the LBP will send relevant information to the group.

PB

ALL JL

 $\mathbf{LL}$ 

#### 11. | Financial Matters:

# i) Clerks Report

#### The Audit

The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything from the Auditors, however, due to the pandemic the final date for Auditors to send out their reports had been changed to the 31<sup>st</sup> November.

#### Millennium Green

Mark Bradfield's final invoice for 2020-2021 of £370.00 had been received. His costs have come in under budget and it was noted that he is expecting to quote around £900, for next year, depending on how much weeding is needed in the wild flower area.

The Clerk reported that following publication of the agenda the following cheques had been paid. Clerks October salary £253.49. PAYE £9.80 Replacement Shredder £299.21. These will be added to the Summary of costs against budget.

# **Draft Budget**

Down for discussion this evening.

#### **Grant Request**

Children's air ambulance, the request had been forwarded to Councillors.

#### Millennium Green

The Clerk is currently sending out for quotes for cutting back the Chinese Elm! On the MG and Mark Bradfield is going to help with the request to the District Council to remove the Sycamore tree on the corner of the Bassett Road side of the MG, which overlooks the stream and is in danger of causing problems with the cables running through its branches.

# ii) Ratification of invoices

The following invoices were ratified by Councillors CPRE subscription £36.00, Community grant for Gardening and Book clubs £120.00, Clerk September Salary £434.41, PAYE for September £55.00, Letcombe Regis Village Hall – Maintenance grant from PC £888.00, Green & Stripey £110.00, Mark Bradfield MG maintenance £370.00, Clerk October salary £253.49, PAYE £9.80, Clerk for purchase of PC Shredder £299.21.

### iii) Summary of costs to date against budget (circulated)

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

# iv) Draft Budget for discussion (circulated)

To discuss and if agreed, to approve the draft budget for 2020/2021 subject to amendments necessitated by the Draft Local Government Financial Report to be issued in December 2020 and the tax base for 2021-22 which will determine the precept and set the amount of the RG&VH grant to the Trustees. Cllr Lapsley ran through the draft proposal. Any proposed changes were given on the notes for clarification. Councillors agreed the draft. She asked Councillors were asked to consider whether the precept which had not been increased for several years should be increased. No decision to increase precept was made.

EJ

#### v) Audit

See Clerks Report

vi) Grant Requests (The request had previously been circulated to Councillors) Childrens Air Ambulance after discussion Cllrs decided to give a grant of £150.00. Cllr Batchelor asked in relation to meals for schoolchildren if we are aware of any families in the parish in a particular position where they need support. Cllr Lapsley said we do not know of any, but schools will provide information to the Local Authority on those in need. Further funding was now being made available by the Government to support this.

# 12. Village Items:

- i) Email from Laura Cook. (Previously circulated to Councillors) This was discussed and Cllr Light will check the area to see if anything can be done to alleviate the problem.
- **ii) Village Warden Update on Duties.** Details had only gone to Councillors on the day of the meeting and will be discussed at the next PC meeting once they have had time to review the draft monthly duties.

# iii) Update re road signs and markings

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Mark Francis confirming that subject to Covid-19 restrictions and the weather, the road signs and markings would be in place in the next few weeks.

# **13.** | Planning Applications:

# LRE/4783/6-X, Antwicks Stud, Main Street, Letcombe Regis.

Outline application for the erection of an additional thirty stables with associated store and tack room. New indoor riding school and manège. Conversion of the existing bungalow on the site into two residential units.

Since the initial meeting meeting between VOWH and the Applicant Martin Deans (MD) of VOWH is contacting them monthly and reporting back to the PC. MD reported that he had a conversation with the Applicant at the end of February and clear progress has been made over the last month. He is confident that the Applicant is keen to move things forward with some speed. While MD appreciates that more detail would be helpful he points out that the content of the conversations has to remain confidential at this stage. He sees this as clear evidence of progress on their behalf in terms of moving things forward, and will update you again in a month's time. September 2020, Martin Deans reported that the applicants have appointed agents to assist them with looking at options and the agents are due to contact Martin Deans in the next few weeks. He will update the Clerk for the next meeting. November update Martin Deans had contacted the Samuels and the Agent will contact him asap.

**ONGOING** 

**BP20/V2152/DIS, Letcombe Regis Parish Council Burial Ground, Bassett Road, Letcombe Regis OX12 9LS.** Discharge of condition 4 (Tree Protection) on P19/V2316/FUL (Proposed car park expansion on recreation ground, and new pedestrian access to adjoining burial ground). Date Received 24th August 2020, Registration Date, 2nd September 2020, Target Decision Date 14th October 2020.

LL

ALL

Withdrawn re new information from the Tree Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011.

**P20/V1808/FUL, Mill Cottage Letcombe Regis Wantage OX12 9JD.** Demolish Dwelling. Erect New Dwelling. Registration Date 17th August 2020, Start Consultation Period 25th August 2020, End Consultation Period, 16th September 2020, Target Decision Date 12th October 2020.

Parish Councillors comments While Letcombe Regis Parish Council have no objections to the planning application. The Preliminary Roost Assessment needs to be taken into account along with the planning application. Councillors also wish to point out that the plan currently outlines a parcel of land which belongs to a neighbouring property whose owner wishes to retain the ownership of the said land. He has also pointed out that the replacement substantially increases the size of the replacement building. **ONGOING** 

**P20/V2560/HH, Bablake Farmhouse, Letcombe Regis, OX12 9JD.** Detached Oak Framed Ancillary Outbuilding. Start Consultation Period 15<sup>th</sup> October, End Consultation Period 11<sup>th</sup> November, Target Decision Date 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Reply from the Planning officer Nat Bamsey re Councillors queries:- The question of whether something is curtilage is a complicated one but based on my site visit I would say that this area is within the curtilage of the dwelling, but this is just my assessment. According to the Land Registry data we have the red line area covers two separate listings but as the applicants own both this does not affect the validity of the application. Nat also agreed the building will be seen from the road, as my site visit has shown. In response to drainage reply from the drainage team to Nat Bamsey The FRA in accordance with EA Standing advice alleviates any concerns I have with respect to flood risk and surface water dramage. Therefore, I have no objections to planning permission being granted. Notwithstanding the above, I would advise the applicant attains Product 4 flood level data and AOD level to assist with chosen flood prevention measures and their height. The 1% AEP flood level represents the 1 in 100 year storm and 0.1% represents the 1 in 1000 year storm. PC Response *Letcombe* Regis Parish Council have no objections to this application. However Councillors point out that the Ancillary building will be seen from the road and the advice on the flood risk should be followed up. ONGOING

**P20/V2732/LB, 1** Old Manor Cottages, Road Running from Yew Tree Cottage to the Village Hall (Chapel Lane) OX12 9JP. Retention of an en-suite bathroom within the roof space of the modern 2- storey extension wing along with the retention of the window at second floor level in the rear gable elevation. Consultation period 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020, End Consultation period 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, Target Decision Date 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Reply from Planning Officer Sally Appleyard re Councillors concerns in connection with the fire risk.

"This is a listed building application, and therefore I am only assessing the impact on the historic fabric. The conservation officer has been consulted on this, and I am still awaiting comments. Building regulations is a separate matter that is dealt with outside of planning, under separate legislation." 14. Deed of Dedication dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 between the Parish Council and the Big Lottery. The restriction imposed on the title by this Deed ON 319053. Expires twenty years from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 so 17<sup>th</sup> March 2036.

**Agreement between the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Parish Council dated 6**<sup>th</sup> **September 2016**. There is a restriction for this grant for a ten year period as above which ceases on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

Both agreements secure the investment of public money and ensure that the site continues to be used as a village hall and associated parking. All legal documentation which applies to the above is held in the official Parish Council Records.

It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 that the countdown for this needs to be recorded annually in the Parish Council minutes until the end of the period on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2036.

15. Parish Council meetings: Dates approved by the PC but subject to change 16th November 2020, 18th January 2021, 15th March 2021.

**Dates to be approved for 2021** 17<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> November, **2022** 17<sup>th</sup> January, 21<sup>st</sup> March. To be forwarded to next meeting

The meeting finished at 10.30pm

Elizabeth Jenkins Parish Clerk 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020

# **Burial Ground Implementation**



# **Appendix B**

### **COVID IN OXON**

Reports from the OCC Chief Executive on management of Covid have been emailed earlier. A national lockdown has removed the decision from local influence/control.

The National Lockdown relieves County Council of another debate, and is raising serious challenges at last to following the secret advice of SAGE. There are alternatives presented by scientists of global standing which Gov is ignoring: for example the Great Barrington Declaration, initiated by Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford University has been largely ignored and not made fully public. I wish you all successful outcome from this lock down and hope we'll be 'free' for Xmas. . . . and beyond?

# TRANSPORT; CIVIL PARKING EBFORCEMENT (CPE)

County Council has approved the OCC proposal to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement to Cherwell, South and Vale, which is long overdue. (City and West Oxfordshire introduced CPE i2014)

I initiated this project on taking the Transport portfolio, determined to end the complaints from residents about local parking chaos which has to be enforced by the (absent) police.

OCC officers proposed an innovative scheme where OCC will deliver on-street parking for these 3 Districts, providing the funding and taking most of the financial risk, retaining all ticket revenue and penalties, and undertake ALL parking enforcement for off- street as well as on-street parking. The District Councils still have to approve this project, but we expect it to make parking enforcement effective in all the market towns (penalties on all the high streets and all the commuter parking at railway stations) if controlled by the Council and not have to wait for the police. In time I hope CPE will enable village wardens to enforce parking in the villages too.

# TRANCHE 2 ACTIVE TRAVEL; GOV ANNOUNCE £2.89 MILLION for Oxon

SoS for Transport has at last announced grant of £2.98 million for cycle/walking schemes in Ox City. It's £600,000 more than allocated in July so we are pleased to have convinced them that we spend wisely. Unlike other highway authorities we have not introduced pop up/temporary schemes and had to remove them. But we do not get funding for any schemes outside OxCity (all had to replace current bus aroutes) so I am pressing to spend my CPF = some of it for Letcombe Regis.

# **COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND (CPF)**

I remain committed to spending part of my CPF on a Letcombe scheme and still await estimates of cycle/footway upgrade to improve access to Wantage, if that is still agreed and intended for the village. I know estimates must come from OCC's Mark Francis, and I hope he is back from 'shielding'? this week. I remind you the spend must be comolete by end of the financial year, and other villages are waiting for my decisions on spend in each. The other request to upgrade the

footpath to Letcombe Bassett is with officer Arthur McEwan -James, but does not depend upon my fund.

**PLANNING WHITE PAPER**; Gov's White Paper on Planning has caused a number of concerns, not least that it was written on assumption that all Councils would be Unitary or Combined Councils. OCC has responded highlighting many issues about the planned national diktat for housing numbers; the possibility of a national replacement for S.106/CIL; distribution of receipts under such a scheme for a first- tier Council which is not the local planning authority etc. We made strong comment about loss of local input and local knowledge, and await Gov response.

#### **DEVOLUTION**

We do not expect any change on the Devolution issue until after next May's election. SoS Robert Jenrick has written to announce that the unitary applications already committed would go ahead (in Cumbria, Somerset and Yorkshire?) but no new ones will be considered until these are complete.

Cllr Yvonne Constance