

April 2018

PLANNING APPLICATION IN WATLINGTON ROAD, LEWKNOR

As many of you will have heard, the planning application for up to 40 houses on Watlington Road, Lewknor has been refused by South Oxfordshire District Council. This is great news for all those people in the Parish who are against the idea of such a large, inappropriate development in our rural village. It may not be the end of the story, but at least this first battle has been won.

There were three speakers from our area who spoke against the plans, Caroline Hjorth (Chair of Lewknor Parish Council), James Winspear (Chair of the Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Plan) and Caroline Newton, who is the district councillor for our ward; each of them put forward the many objections concisely and eloquently. Their reasoned opposition to the scheme made a significant contribution to the positive outcome and they deserve our warm praise and thanks. It also helped that so many local people attended the meeting, showing the district council the strength of feeling against this proposed development. A big thank you also to all those people who wrote letters objecting to the plans – it really helped.

THE MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION WERE:

- the visual impact of the site, it's sloping aspect and position dominating the village and close to the AONB and Chiltern hills
- the lack of local bus services
- the lack of safe footpaths or cycleways to Watlington or Chinnor to access local services
- the lack of thought from the developers regarding existing and potential parking problems

The district councillors also asked specifically about the progress of our Neighbourhood Plan and James Winspear was able to refer to the main findings of the first questionnaire, which showed the objections of local people to large scale developments of this kind. Therefore, the NP committee would like to express their warm thanks to all those who filled in and returned the forms. They think it really made a difference.

The next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared now and a second, more detailed questionnaire will be coming out soon, which will include a Housing Needs survey. Please do fill it in. When the NP is completed and approved by the District council, it will be an official document which must be taken into consideration when any future planning applications are made, and guide planning decisions in our Parish until 2033. There is no guarantee that inappropriate developments could be halted in the future, but the Parish council and the NP group are working hard together to prevent unsuitable or unsustainable plans being passed, so that the rural nature of our community can be preserved, and that appropriate small-scale developments might be permitted based on our community agreeing to them.

Please support your community, the Neighbourhood Plan consultations and continue to give your ideas and feedback.

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Find out what the Parish had to say about motorway noise, access to the countryside, broadband provision and a community shop at our Feedback Drop-In Events.

The results of Consultation One will be available for all to view and comment on at two Drop-In meetings to be held on April 14th and 22nd. You will be able to explore some of the issues raised in a little more depth, and give your views. There will be coffee and cake, a children's activity and a prize draw for all who attend.

Don't miss this opportunity to find out what your Parish thinks is important, and have your say to help the Neighbourhood Planning Group shape the policies that will affect this Parish for years to come. Feedback Drop-Ins will be held as follows:

- Saturday April 14th, 10am to 1pm, Lewknor Village Hall
- Sunday April 22nd, 10am – 12.40pm, England's Rose Postcombe

The Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Planning Group is committed to creating the right Plan for Lewknor Parish residents. Please join in the discussion, offer your views and make your opinion count!

Facebook: Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Plan (group)