Report on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan for year to May 2025

There are two main things to report on, which have involved a great deal of work for the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum in this last year.

The first is that with Cherwell District Council creating a new 'Local Plan', the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) itself has to be updated for resubmission to be concordant with the new 'Local Plan'.

The second is that Heyford Park, which was one of the 12 villages involved in the MCNP, left that group of villages, leading to paperwork required for this alteration.

So, a re-draft of the MCNP has been necessary, with a Reg 14 public consultation currently underway (ending at midnight tomorrow). The submission to CDC is due in July.

The evolving 'Local Plan' has some new clauses, for example on 'Green' policy and environmental issues, with which the MCNP draft resubmission is concordant in its policies for the purposes of promoting a green infrastructure network, for example for improved biodiversity, wildlife corridors, recreation facilities, off-road connectivity, local green spaces, etc. Kirtlington already had four Local Green Spaces, and has now added the Community Orchard. The MCNP resubmission also stresses its work with Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police and others to protect against rising traffic volumes, the impact of rising local development and of increased heavy goods vehicles and the inadequate rural road network generally within the MCNP area.