



Town Survey: Frequently Asked Questions

Below you will find answers to FAQs from the town survey circulated earlier this year.

1. Communication

We currently communicate via:

- Town Council website
- Instagram
- Facebook
- Charlbury.info
- Noticeboards
- Charlbury alerts
- Article in the Chronicle

We would love to reach more residents. Please let us know how you would like the Town Council to communicate with you.

2. State of pavements, roads & street lighting

We regularly report potholes, issues with pavements, street lighting, fly tipping etc to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) on <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> and would encourage everyone to do this as well, as anyone is able to report these issues.

3. Parking

We have started working with Oxfordshire County Council to look at parking in town. We have distributed a parking survey to town centre residents, to gain a baseline understanding of what the issues are. We are currently meeting with businesses to find out how parking affects them and are surveying car parkers at the Spendlove Centre car park. Next steps include working with OCC to consult on residents' parking zones, working with WODC to reconfigure Spendlove car park and continuing to talk to GWR about the station car park to see if anything can be done there.

Herring bone parking on Church St has been suggested to OCC. However, they have told us that it will only add 2 spaces and will cost thousands of pounds (which the TC doesn't have in its budget).

4. Sheep St parking

More double yellows on Sheep Street as currently bin lorries can't get through due to cars parked on both sides. One way system on Pooles Lane and Hixet Wood (after Woodfield Drive turning towards the town centre) in the same way we have it for Sheep Street, Browns Lane, Fishers Lane and Market Street.



This is an issue that has not been actively investigated by the previous council. Any work on the highways is the responsibility of OCC but this would need to be requested by the Town Council with the support of the town. If agreed by OCC, a Traffic Regulation Order would be required, which is a full consultation process. Just as it sounds, this is a long (and expensive) process.

5. Airbnbs

Unfortunately, there is no legislation limiting Airbnbs so the Town Council (or the District Council as the planning authority) has no power to do anything. We try to ask for planning conditions if appropriate if it comes to our attention that a property will be used as an Airbnb.

6. Walkers are Welcome

A funding bid has been granted (from Cotswold National Landscape) to help improve some of the muddier areas of the walks, to increase the signage and to add more waymarkers as well as update the map on the side of the Co-op.

We are also working with businesses to see if they will support this initiative.

7. Launch a "Charlbury Card" - 10% off (for example) for Charlbury residents in all our commercial establishments

What a great idea!

8. Programme to investigate, and consequently act upon, the very harmful effects of the smoke and particles produced by woodburning on human respiratory health.

West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) is the environmental health authority. A resident has been advised to keep a nuisance log (which can be found here:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/lkmlhnm4/nuisance-log-sheet-wodc.pdf>). WODC will then assess the information to see if further investigation is necessary as it has a duty to regularly monitor air pollutant levels to assess current and future air quality.

9. Request a more prominent position on the Charlbury web page.

This has been requested however, it was not agreed by charlbury.info. The Town Council does communicate on all the platforms listed above.

10. Removal of bins from outer streets

In 2022, West Oxfordshire District Council implemented a new bin policy. The Town Council met with WODC to try to keep as many bins as possible. In order to keep some of the ones we still have the TC now has to pay for emptying. The cost to the TC in 2023-24 just for having the bins emptied was £2,611.



11. Revert to 30mph speed limit

Oxfordshire County Council has a 20mph policy. This means that all parishes in Oxfordshire can request a 20-mph speed limit. Charlbury Town Council requested that the speed limit be implemented early in OCC's programme because it believes that speeding is an issue through the town.

12. Create a play area to support the south of the town

Had the Woodstock Road planning application been agreed, the TC had asked for a play area to be installed there, to be put in at the cost of the developer. Unfortunately, this request was refused by the developer as legislation states that play areas are required no further than a 10-minute walk (in a straight line). The developers stated that Ticknell Piece playground was within this distance. The planning application has also been refused by WODC.

Unfortunately, the TC does not own any land in order to build an additional play area.

13. EV charging points

OCC has agreed to install these at the Spendlove Centre. We have not been told the timeframe of this

14. Neighbourhood Plan

Under the section of housing, the word "should" is a bit of a pushover, words like must and will , need to be used to force actually affordable housing based on income, not affordable compared to the other houses being built.

Before this plan was 'made', WODC and the examiner had to approve it and much of the wording had to be changed to 'should' rather than 'must' in order to avoid legal challenge as Neighbourhood Plans have to be fully compliant with national policy (NPPF) and the West Oxfordshire Local Plan.

15. There should be less stringent rules around minor home improvements to reduce the need for expensive and time-consuming planning permission requests

This is down to Government policy which is then implemented by WODC as the planning authority. The only role that the Town Council has in planning issues, is as a consultee on planning applications. The TC forwards its comments to the WODC planning department who then considers them along with other comments received (i.e. from neighbours, OCC Highways, Utilities etc).

16. Young people – on the council and more activities for them

We would love this to happen.



To try to encourage young people to be involved, we are working on setting up a Youth Town Council. We are also supporting Thomas Gifford Trust with their Youth Ambassador initiative. This is a part-time employed role to support young people by creating and overseeing various youth programmes. The plan is for someone to be in post by September 2024.

17. Wilderness year on year has been getting worse for traffic and incidents even last year that involves the police, noise complaints.

We meet with Wilderness each year to hear their plans for the upcoming festival. We feedback issues to them for example, last year, the massive queue leaving Charlbury down Dyers Hill gridlocking the town. This year they have also had to renew their licence with WODC who have imposed conditions (https://publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/files/DB8B821EC7021AB3DBB2065E2358A045/pdf/W_23_01303_PRMA-PROPOSED_CONDITIONS-1271903.pdf).

The Festival organisers have a residents information webpage: [Resident's Information - Wilderness Festival](#) and have a new dedicated email address: residents@wildernessfestival.com in case of issues during the weekend.

18. Potential bridge.

The survey question on a potential bridge was to gauge if there is any support for it. There has been no decision made either way. We must stress that **if** the TC investigated this further, there would be town-wide consultation and external funding would have to be found. There is no question of the TC funding this out of its budget/the precept.