

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan and The SODC Local Plan

****Important Information****

SODC has released its Preferred Options Consultation document of its Local Plan 2032. It is open for comment until 19 August and can be found at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2032>. It has important implications for our Parish and our Neighbourhood Plan. Please read it. The Parish Council will be circulating its proposed comments in the next few weeks.

The key points directly relevant to us appear to be:

1. Smaller Villages (we are one) will be required to build a number of homes over the next 15 years. In our case that number is 30 (based on the number of dwellings in the parish in 2011 – 587 x 5%), which is higher than any number talked about so far.
2. A proposal for a new category of Medium Villages. We would almost certainly be one, in which case we might need to build 45.
3. Alternatively we might be reclassified as a Larger Village. If so, we might need to build 60 homes.
4. The chosen sites would come through our Neighbourhood Plan and would ideally be met through small sites of 10 homes or less on brownfield land. There will be an affordable housing element.

Also important are the following:

1. An overall requirement for a further 8,575 houses across the District between now and 2032, above those already planned.
2. There should be no further allocation to Didcot.
3. A requirement for at least 430 more houses in Wallingford, above those already planned.
4. A plan to build 3,500 homes on Chalgrove Airfield.

It is essential to progress our Plan swiftly to achieve a degree of control over developments in the Parish so the Steering Group will be drafting it over the summer with a view to submitting it to SODC within six months. While that is going on the Steering Group plans to engage with owners of potential sites and with focus groups of those particularly affected and/or interested in other policies. Notification of consultations will be made through the website, the Villager, on noticeboards etc, so please look out for them. If you wish to be involved in a focus group please let Lucy Dalby, the Parish Clerk, have your contact details.

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