

**Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review – Oxford’s Unmet Housing Need Regulation
19 Consultation - Proposed Submission Documents July 2017**

Comments from Oxford Civic Society

Oxford Civic Society (OCS) would first like to congratulate Cherwell DC on the professionalism with which the consultation proposals have been prepared and express appreciation of the well-conducted and illustrated public consultation event at Cutteslowe Park which we attended.

OCS is pleased to note that Cherwell DC’s proposals in general share much of the logic which we put forward in our response to the previous consultation, although Cherwell have chosen to further erode the ‘Kidlington Gap’ by moving the golf course further north and allocating housing land on both sides of the Oxford-Kidlington Road. One obvious benefit of the latter would be the opportunity to make proper pedestrian and cycle access from the Northern Gateway to Oxford Parkway. On the other hand, the development around Parkway Station would undoubtedly be highly attractive to London commuters, undermining the contribution to Oxford’s unmet housing need, as we pointed out in our last response.

We are also concerned that the eastern boundary of PR6a does not meet the NPPF criteria for Green Belt boundaries which should be well-defined, permanent physical features.

The concern in the proposals for preserving the attractions of Cutteslowe Park and expending it are welcome. The proposal for permanent agricultural land to be designated to safeguard the fine views from the park will, we hope, serve to maintain a beautiful public asset, albeit that there can be no permanent guarantee that the land will remain agricultural.

Sir Clive Booth

President, OCS

9 October 2017