|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **0** | **Organisation** | **Response** | **Action** | |
| 1 | Natural England | * appreciate the policies to preserve dark skies and conserve   and enhance green and open space   * do: acknowledge designated site Weston Fen SSI & do not   support development that would affect this area   * require that all development results in a biodiversity net gain for the parish * Include: E2 “Inappropriate development of residential gardens   will not be supported where it will detract from the character of  the village or has a negative impact on biodiversity”   * Adjust E2 regarding development on previously developed land * add a statement that new developments should incorporate   large green verges   * Objective TO2: add “where possible, Public Rights of Way   should be enhanced by creating or upgrading link paths,  improving maintenance, incorporating green infrastructure  and signage through developer contributions”  Trans  port Policy T1: add “Parking areas and access routes  related to new development should not result in a net loss to  biodiversity or green space”.  Site C is brownfield land. Note the NPPF Section 111 states  that “planning policies and decisions should encourage the  effective use of land by re-using and that has been previously developed”.   * issues on providing a green infrastructure and improving the natural environment are set out in a paper entitled   “Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment:  information, issues and opportunities”.   * Examples of how WOTG can enhance the above are : * Providing a new footpath with landscaping through the new * development to link into existing rights of way or other green spaces. * Restoring a neglected hedgerow or creating new ones. * Creating a ne pond a an attractive feature on site * Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local  landscape. * Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better * nectar and seed sources for bees and  birds. * Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of * new buildings * Considering how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife. * Adding a green roof or walls to new or existing buildings.   For example by:   * Setting out how you would like to implement elements of a wider   Green Infrastructure Strategy in your community.   * Assessing needs for accessible green space and setting out proposals   to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.   * Identifying green areas of particular importance for special   protection through Local Green Space designation (see Planning  Practice Guidance on this16).   * Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife   friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).   * Planting additional street trees. * Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way   network, e.g. cutting back  hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the  network to create missing links.   * Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor  condition or clearing away an eyesore). | Refer to 2.1 & Figure 5    Refer to Chpt 5  Environment Policies  E.1  Added in E2 & included in  Design Plan  Added in E2  Added a Policy E4  Added to Chpt 5.3 ObjectiveTO2  Added to Chop 5.3  T1  Noted and will  request from Southfield Far  Farm  All to be included in  Design Plan and  Policy  Added to Parish  Council Action List  format issue | |
| 2 | Environmental Agency | * Reminded |  | |
| 3 | English Heritage\ Historic  England | Congratulations on the exemplary approach to understanding the  historic interest and character of the village and the succinct but informative way this is presented in the plan   * Policy H2: we are pleased to support the inclusion of a design code   that is specific to the settlement and the conservation area   * Policy C4: to protect the character of the village centre and inform   master planning for any enhancements, such as the proposed village  square, proposals should conserve the character of space, key street  scenes and views within the village   * Development that would result in harm to the visual contribution of   key views set out in this Plan and the Conservation Appraisal (2009)  will not be supported.   * Development proposals should show that design or development   will conserve key features of local Character described and/or  illustrated in Appendices E-J of this Plan and including:   1. views of high positive visual contribution, particularly of the   Parish Church, the green and stocks, the Memorial roundabout at the village centre, the wide verges on North Lane and the  B430, the Manor frontage   1. the rural character engendered by all types of amenity green spaces, particularly the playing field, the spinney, the ponds | Noted  Noted  Noted and added to Chpt 5  Community Policies C4  As above  Noted and strengthed  In plan  Where is this?? | |
| 4 | Network Rail Infrastructure |  |  | |
| 5 | Highways England | Highways England have looked specifically at any potential to impact  the safe and efficient operation of the strategic road network, in this  case the A34 and the M40.  They have no comments to make on this consultation | Noted | |
| 6 | Cherwell District Council | We are particularly pleased to note that many of the issues and  discussions that have been on-going between us and the Steering  Group are now reflected in the plan.  **Mapping/ Diagrams**   * Where necessary all the plans, maps, diagrams and photographs   should include details such as source, licences, acknowledgements,  scales etc.   * It may also be helpful to increase the scale of some of the maps to   make them easier to read.  **Foreword**   * Given the recommended changes to the housing allocations (see later comments) there will need to be a change to the statement in para   4 referring to 20% growth in village.  **Executive Summary**  **Housing Policies**  References to Site B (Gallosbrook Way) and Site C (Fir Tree Farm) should be deleted from the Executive Summary to reflect recommendations and earlier discussions regarding the identification of housing sites within the Green Belt. (Further comments on this subject are set out below)  **Planning Policy – Housing**   * The percentages of 30% Starter Homes, 35% Affordable and 30% 2/3 bedrooms and 5% 4/5 bedrooms are included within the Executive Summary but do not appear anywhere else in the document. Whilst   we are pleased to note that these requirements fall within the scope  of the adopted policies of the Cherwell Local Plan, the  Neighbourhood Plan’s detailed requirements will need to be clearly evidenced. Appendix D sets out some of the village survey results but  it is not clear from there how these figures were reached.   * Reference is also made to ‘starter homes’. Do you have a definition   for this? There is a definition of affordable housing in Annex 2 of the  NPPF. This would preclude the Plan from asking for ‘starter homes’ in addition to ‘affordable homes’. If the Plan has another definition in  mind this will have to be explained or the term ‘starter homes’  replaced by another term.   * The Housing Section in the main body of the Plan will need to have a   policy and explanation on this.  **3**  Para 1.1: It may be helpful to update the second paragraph along the following lines. Quoted dates will also need to be revised. The next stages are:   1. The Qualifying body submits the NP to the local planning authority (lpa) 2. The lpa checks that the submitted proposal complies with all the relevant legislation. 3. If the lpa finds that the plan meets the legal requirements it:   -publicises the proposal for a minimum 6 weeks and invites representations  -notifies consultation bodies referred to in the consultation statement  -appoints an independent examiner (with the agreement of the qualifying body).   1. Independent Examination   v) Referendum and Making the Neighbourhood Plan.    **Table A**: Revise dates to reflect delay in submitting to CDC and additional consultation by Neighbourhood Plan Forum prior to submission.   * **P13**: There is a reference here to Diane’s personal media accounts. To protect privacy we would strongly recommend that this reference is removed. * **Chapter 2** * **2.2** It may be helpful in this paragraph to state that the Weston on the Green Conservation Area was first designated in October 2000. A Conservation Area Appraisal was undertaken in 2009 which resulted in amendments to the Conservation Area boundary. * **Fig 6**: The source of this Plan should be acknowledged. Fig 8: This is an interesting and useful plan but due to its scale it is difficult to read. Is it possible to reproduce it at a bigger scale? * **2.5** Use of the term ‘Local Green Spaces’. Figure 14 and Appendix G identifies a number of ‘local green spaces’ throughout the village. It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the correct terminology when making such references and distinguishes them from other areas of amenity/open space within the Plan area. * In order to formally designate ‘local green spaces’ there needs to be a specific policy in the Neighbourhood Plan which does this. There is not one at present. Secondly, there needs to be robust evidence that each of the proposed green spaces meets national policy requirements. * The NPPF (paragraph 75) states that local communities through local and neighbourhood plans can identify local green areas of particular importance to them as ‘Local Green Spaces’. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities can rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Local Green space designation is therefore a restrictive and significant policy equivalent to Green Belt.      * Paragraph 77 then goes on to state that such a designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:  1. Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves. 2. Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular  local significance, for example, because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational  value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife. 3. Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.   Having regard to the above advice it is essential that the .  +  023j\jjNeighbourhood Plan clearly demonstrates that the requirements for the allocation of each individual local green space are met in full. ***To this end compelling evidence is required to demonstrate that any such allocation meets national policy requirements. Failure to do this could result in the Plan failing to meet one of the Basic Conditions***.  Having reviewed the local green spaces described in Appendix G it is suggested that some of the sites do not meet these requirements. Sites of particular concern include the private gardens and grass verges. The Neighbourhood Plan will therefore need to make a clear distinction between existing amenity space, and play areas and formal proposals for NPPF defined local green space designations.  **Chapter 5: Vision, Objectives and Policies**   * Figures 19 and 20 will need to be amended to reflect the proposed changes in the identified housing sites. (See comments below). * Housing site B should be removed and Sites C (i) and (ii) should be labelled as ‘potential rural exception sites’. * Figure 20 needs a key.   **Environmental policies**   * Policy E5 refers to Local Green Spaces. The Plan currently does not propose any designation of local green spaces. If it is decided to designate such spaces then there will need to be a specific policy. (See comments above).   **Theme 2 - Housing and Land Use**  As we have previously discussed on several occasions Policy Villages 1 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan restricts development at Weston on the Green to infilling and conversions only within the Green Belt area of the built-up limits of the village. Minor development is, however, provided for within the non-Green Belt part of the village’s built up area. It should also be noted that Policy Villages 2 provides the potential for development beyond the built up limits of the village (outside the Green Belt).   * Policy Villages 3 does however, support the identification of suitable opportunities for small scale affordable housing schemes within or immediately adjacent to villages to meet specific, identified local housing needs that cannot be met through the development of sites allocated for housing development (ie rural exception sites) * Government guidance in the NPPF (paragraph 83) states that ‘Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan’. This advice means that neighbourhood plans should not amend green belt boundaries nor allocate land for inappropriate development in the Green Belt. (eg including housing). * Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances (NPPF). * Whilst it is acknowledged that the approach in the current Plan has been amended from earlier versions in response to our discussions on this topic, we still have concerns that the Neighbourhood Plan is placing undue weight and detail on the acceptability of housing development on the Fir Tree Farm and Gallosbrook Way sites which are located within the Green Belt. As drafted the Neighbourhood Plan could be in conflict with the strategic policies in the adopted Cherwell Local Plan and is therefore at risk of failing to meet the Basic Conditions required of Neighbourhood Plans.   The following comments are made in this context:   * P57: Second paragraph – delete ‘The provisional Site C (i) and (ii) are offered for development that would help to rebalance the housing density in the southern half of the village’. * Third paragraph – This paragraph can remain. * The principal aim of these comments is to ensure that these sites are not referred to in such a way  that could be viewed as the sites being allocated for housing. * **P58: Objectives** * References to sites B and C should be deleted. * **Housing Policies** * You may wish to consider adding a new policy which addresses housing mix (see comments above regarding the Executive Summary). * The first paragraph referring to Southfield Farm could be made a standalone policy eg Policy H1. * **Community Policies Policy** * **C4 (a)** – For the avoidance of doubt it may be better to redraft as follows:  ‘Development that endangers visual impact of the key views set out in this Plan and in Cherwell District Council’s Weston on the Green Conservation Area Appraisal (2009)’ * **Transport Policies** * **Policy T2** – A threshold of 4 dwellings is included within this policy. There is no reason why this cannot be applied but the Plan will need to provide evidence/justification for this threshold. The views of Oxfordshire County Council as Highway Authority should also be sought on this policy. * Detailed references to village surveys and feedback – check that they have been referenced or included as background documents. * **Table C** – This may need updating as policy wording is amended. * **Appendix A** – It may be helpful to include * Copies of the main publicity material eg posters, standard letters etc. * List of key points arising from the public meetings (ie a brief meeting note) * Details of landowners approached in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. * On a more general note this Appendix could be incorporated in to the wider Consultation Statement which will accompany your Submission Plan. (See comments on submission documents below). This will have to include details of the latest round of consultation on this Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Regulations. * **Appendix E** – The Plan refers to this Design Code throughout. It is therefore integral to the implementation of the Plan’s policies. It is suggested therefore, that this appendix is given greater prominence. For example it could be moved up to Appendix A. * **Appendix F** –Given the earlier comments on the appropriateness of identifying Sites B and C as being suitable for housing within the Plan it is recommended that this appendix should be deleted. * **Appendix G** – Please see comments above relating to Local Green Spaces.      * **NEXT STAGES** * The next stage in the Neighbourhood Plan process is known as ‘Regulation 15’. This is when you formally submit the Neighbourhood Plan to Cherwell DC, as the local planning authority. * When you do this it must include: * a)  a map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood plan relates * b)  a consultation statement. This will need to:- * Contain details of the persons and bodies that were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan. This must include the Consultation Bodies listed in Schedule 1 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; * Explains how they were consulted; * Summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and * Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where * relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan. * c) The proposed neighbourhood plan; and * d)  A Basic Conditions Statement * e)  A Sustainability Appraisal Report. (NB this is only required if recommended by the  Screening Opinion * In conclusion, we trust that you will find these comments helpful. | Noted  Done  Done  Amended to 10% growth  Amended – deleted  From plan  Noted and done  See and discuss H1 (pg 59)-  c  Inserted in text  Do we have this??  Amended  Updated  Removed  Amended  Done  New section with  More info on  Green Spaces inserted  Policy included  Evidence of meeting  Requirements ?? pg 128 ??  Very important for the village  Can it be private land?  (Note: discuss school  field)  Remove bold after  Discussion with Susan  Done  Done  Done  Policy written  Go over with Susan – is it enough? Is it compliant??  \*\*Noted/discuss  Understood and  Plan adjusted  Done  Understood  Both sites have been  removed  Amended H1  Amended in C4:a  Amended ??  Reference Appendix C Transport  And highways considerations pg 91  Double check \*\*\*  DB to do  DB to ad  DB to add  ?? shall we  Amended ??  Changed  Deleted  `Understood and  amended  Understood | |
| 7 | Oxfordshire County Council | A key issue raised in the Transport Strategy response concerts  the plan’s objective to restore a Public Transport service to the village; whilst this objective is supported it is not clear how it could be  achieved. Without a public transport service there are issues with the  sustainability of small scale development.  Transport comments:   * there are no funds available for a bus service * WOTG does not have the critical mass to support a bus service for commuters (fee-paying customers) * permitting any small-scale residential development at WOTG   would result in a population without means of transport. An  increase in care use would add to congestion on the approaches  to Oxford and Bicester.  Travel Plans   * It is recommended that reference is made to the requirement   for travel plans and travel plan statements as set out in Oxfordshire  county council guidance document Transport for new  development, Transport assessment and travel plans (2014)   * there is support in principle for improving walking inks within the   village and looking to expand and connect up the cycling links ,  including the employment site. Funding would need to be secured.   * bus service are unlikely but there are other options such as   community lift share schemes to be explored.  Road Safety  Aspirations A20, A21.   * the road (B430) is considered as having a reasonable speed   limit (2011 and 2013 review)   * changes to 30 mph could happen, but only after traffic calming   measures are in place. There is no funding for this.  Aspiration A22 “speed limit on the lanes radiating fom the B430  should be reduces to 20 mph”   * it is likely these roads would meet the DY guidelines for a 20 mph   speed limit   * it would be subject to statutory consultation * there are no fun for any traffic calming measures   Aspiration A23 “the weight restriction for heavy lorries should  include both directions”   * not appropriate to have a limit as this is a diversion route for the   A34  Aspiration 25 “pedestrian crossing need on B430”   * no funding for such a project although there is not a problem   with this   * Zebra crossings are only for a 30 mph zone * a pedestrian refuge does not require a consultation * a signaled crossing does require a consultation   Public Rights of Way   * the plan’s Transport and Development policies for protecting and enhancing public rights of way/countryside access are supported     Economy and Skills   * we support the WOTG NP in the context of the objectives and   policies as being aligned with the Strategic Economy Plan’s  priorities for People, Place, Enterprise and Connectivity  Education   * pg 61 comments on providing a pre-school: there is advice that   the county council can provide. See notes for details.   * pg 96 comments on recent availability of school places in the   surrounding area. Note: Chesterton Primary School has been  approved for expansion and the recent expansion of Bletchingdon  School has also increased school capacity  Minerals and Waste/Waster Management   * no comments   Green Infrastructure   * the detail and thought that has gone into understanding and   explaining the landscape character of the parish is welcomed  (refer to the recently published county Historic Landscape  Characterisation project, available on the county council website,  may be of value) \*\*\*   * the policies relating to the control of light pollution are supported * there is an opportunity to complement the landscape character   input with additional information and policy on biodiversity.   * Protection and enhancement of biodiversity is a core part of the   NPPF and the district council’s Local Plan Part 1   * Background Evidence: Figure 5 includes reference to Conservation Target Areas (CTA). It would be helpful to include Otmoor CTA to the south-east on Figure 5. * There are two Local Wildlife Sites identified within the parish (both woodlands south of the A34), which are also recorded as Ancient Woodland, the status of which it would also be appropriate to record on Figure 5. * There is little reference to the plants and animals within and around the settlement which depend upon the trees, hedges, grasslands and water bodies that give form to the green spaces. Existing information held by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre shows a number of protected and notable species including species of bats and swifts. Local information would easily swell this list. * Policy: In terms of policy it would be helpful if the NP could reinforce and interpret existing biodiversity policy within the district’s Local Plan Part 1, in particular ensuring that a “net gain” in biodiversity is sought where possible and stating this in policies and supporting information. * The parish has one CTA within its boundary, Kirtlington and Bletchingdon Park and Woods, and abuts Otmoor CTA to the south-east. As such the parish plays and important role in linking the two CTA. The NP could help in this process by identifying areas of locally important habitat and considering whether there are opportunities to strengthen wildlife corridors. * There may also be opportunities to reinforce wildlife conservation at a very local level, for example by reinforcing the need to protect the roosts of bats and nests of declining birds such as swifts that often depend upon old houses and can be lost in renovations and re-builds; and can be incorporated into new developments. | Understood but not  helpful without funds.  Concerned that the  county does not  help our village to be  sustainable.  “Catch 22”  Action on PC to  determine if there is  a need for a commuter  bus.  Noted  To be explored.  Disagree & note 30mph  In both Middleton  Stoney  Noted  Noted  Rather that used as a  diversion route, it is  the preferred route  for many lorries. This  is not an A route and as  such should only be  used when an actual  diversion is necessary.  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted but housing  developments in  surrounding village  will require spaces as  well a WOTG.  Noted -do  \*Note – of help to  School Field group/  Should E:1 be enlarged?  Written and inserted in 5.2  Added  Added  Added ???? where  Noted and added – maybe need to state  State compliance – where??  See page 29  ( info is there but not prominent)  KEY point, noted &  Added - where??  To include in PC plan\*\*\* | |
| 8 | Kirtlington Parish Council |  |  | |
| 9 | Chesterton Parish Council |  |  | |
| 10 | Wendlebury Parish Council |  |  | |
| 11 | Charlton on Otmoor Parish Council |  |  | |
| 12 | Oddington Parish Council |  |  | |
| 13 | Islip Parish Council Bletchingdon Parish Council |  |  | |
| 14 | Coal Authority |  |  | |
| 15 | Homes & Communties Agency |  |  | |
| 16 | Network Rail Infrastructure |  |  | |
| 17 | Thames Water | Thames Water do not have concerns with regards to the level of  Development proposed in and around WOTG area. However,  as the local Sewage Treatment Works is very small, Thames would  like to encourage developers and the Council to consult Thames on  any proposed development as soon as possible.  General Comments:  New development should be co-ordinated with the infrastructure  it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing  Infrastructure Paragraph 156 of the NPPF March 2012, states;  “***Local planning authorities should set out strategic policies for***  ***the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies***  ***to deliver……the provision of infrastructure for water supply and***  ***wastewater***…..”  Paragraph 162 of the NPPF relates to infrastructure and states:  “***Local planning authorities should work with other authorities to:***  ***assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for water supply***  ***and wastewater and its treatment…..take account of the need for***  ***strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infra-***  ***structure within their areas***”. …..Local Plans should be the focus  for ensuring that investment plans of water and sewerage/waste-  water companies align with development needs.  “***Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to***  ***support sustainable development (Paragraph: 001, Reference***  ***ID: 343-001-20140306***”  In light of this there is an omission of a Policy on Water and  Infrastucture.  Thames Water should be consulted regarding proposals involving  Building over or close to a public sewer. Is such building is agreed  This will need to be regulated by an Agreement in order to protect  The public sewer or apparatus in question.  Or  In a section on ‘infrastructure and Utilities’ a statement similar  to that set out below:  *As per policy INF1(Infrastructure) of the Cherwell Local Plan*  *2011-2031 Part 1, Developers need to consider the net increase*  *in water and waster water demand to serve their developments*  *and also any impact the developments may have off site further*  *down the network, if no\low water pressure and internal/eternal*  *sewage flooding of property to be avoided*. | Noted add to H4 pg 72 & 60 &  Prose on pg 58  Do we need a policy or is this  Enough??  Include reference to NPPF  Noted and added  Added- where?  Written and inserted  Noted  Added to plan where?n | |
| 19 | Anglican Water Services |  |  | |
| 20 | Scottish Water |  |  | |
| 21 | Western Power |  |  | |
| 22 | Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group - NHS | We would welcome a reflection within the Neighbourhood Plan  that any impact from housing would have a corresponding impact  on the practices ability to support their existing population.   * Developer contributions should be considered to enable the local   GP practice to grow.   * transport to the surgery can be an issue * rural loneliness is a health factor * good digital connectivity can help support remote monitoring for   house bound patients  The Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group has prepared a paper  entitled “Health needs associated with housing growth” which  details health needs associated with any housing development.  This document should be referenced when considering housing  Development. | We have written a  new Social Services  Policy for the NP  See Chpt 5 Housing Policies H7  Noted and used | |
| 23 | Canal and River Trust | Not applicable |  | |
| 24 | St. Mary’s Church & the  Ackeman Benefiace |  |  | |
| 25 | United Sustainable Energy  Trust |  |  | |
| 26 | Scottish and Southern  Electricity Networks | No specific comments on this NP  Background info: Letters to Cherwell District Council from Sept 8/14 with attachment which has info on main power line running through  WOTG and essential to the area. j | Noted | |
| 27 | National Trust |  |  | |
| 28 | Oxford Architectural &  Historical Society | 4:1   * Housing: should the option of building to the east of the B430 be   examined in more depth. Clarity of NP’s supporting argument is not  there.   * Would a new development in this location with winding lanes   with housing to increase the population not help assuage the traffic  issue on the B430.  2.3   * neither the Weston Manor Hotel nor the village church are   highlighted as having any role to play in the future provision of amenities   * hotel must be a source of employment, it does not supply its kitchens from its own gardens * churches are seeing themselves as centres of the community, and we would like to see some vision for its future | NP to be strengthened  to show how the  historic village is on  one side of the road.  vistas and open skies  are on the other side.  See pg 16 – has this been scaled  Up?  NP has requested  responses but work  needs to be done to  develop relationships. | |
| 29 | Civil Aviation Authority |  |  | |
| 30 | Oxford Geology Trust |  |  | |
| 31 | Oxford Greenbelt Network |  |  | |
| 32 | Oxford Preservation Trust |  |  | |
| 33 | Oxfordshire Business Enterprise |  |  | |
| 34 | Wild Oxfordshire |  |  | |
| 35 | Oxfordshire Playing Fields  Association | * §OPFA fully supports the policies of the plan designed to ensure that   the playing field and other green spaces are not lost to development, in particular Plan Policy C4   * Objective ? “to improve the existing playground and consider the designation of a new recreation space” - this is fully supported and   would be willing to work with WOTG on this   * regarding the aim to protect the remaining green spaces : * recommend getting in touch with Fields in Trust as they work with   landowners to protect open spaces in perpetuity.   * see website <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/> David Sharman,   Development Manager for Oxfordshire | Noted  Noted – where?  \*\* Info for School  Field group | |
| 36 | Community First Oxfordshire |  |  | |
| 37 | Oxfordshire Butterfly Group | * WOTG is surrounded by farmland some of which is arable, probably now you have little by way of permanent pasture or wildflower meadows, you do however have hedgerows and some small area's of woodland, so I would like to highlight Brown, White Letter and Black Hairstreak butterflies these are butterflies that are not readily seen as they spend most of their lives in the canopy. * With the majority of the land in your region is in private ownership, we are not able to check these area's and we just do not have enough time to check everywhere. * The White Letter depends on Elm, the Dutch Elm disease has seriously reduced their numbers because they are dependent on the more mature flowering Elms or Wych Elm, if at any time planting trees is considered we would recommend planting disease resistant Elm. * I am fairly sure the Brown Hairstreak is in your region, (its distribution is monitored by looking for its eggs in the Winter) it lays its eggs on low Blackthorn growth usually no more than a meter and a half high, the modern use of the flail, is removing most of the eggs, this is one of the reasons that D.E.F.R.A recommends a three year rotation of hedge flailing. * The Black Hairstreak is the most restricted in its distribution, caterpillar food plant again is Blackthorn, Oxon and Bucks have at least 50% of this butterflies colonies, we have some old records from along Akeman street on your northern boundary, much of the Blackthorn has been removed, so we doubt that it still exists there, it was seen 2006 around Weston wood on your Southern boundary, it was also recorded at Tolbrook corner to the West in 2011, the Blackthorn has been cut back here as well. * Bletchingdon roadside, also seen here 2011, (some of these dates refer to when we last visited in the short flight period to look for them) if you have some good Blackthorn thickets in your area you may have well have this butterfly, so I have attached the management fact sheet produced by Butterfly Conservation. | Importance of this is  Updated in NP pg 29  \*\*Info for School Field  group  Noted  All of this info is  Included in the  Biodiversity Policy  Noted – (a survey  needs to be done)  `Add to Action Plan of  the PC  To check  To check | |
| [[1]](#footnote-1) |  |  |  |  | |  |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)