

## Oundle Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2031

Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Parish Council feels that neighbouring councils, such as ourselves, ought to have been consulted earlier as part of the stakeholder consultation meetings - given that the Plan identifies Oundle's role as a rural service centre for smaller villages in the area. The ways in which the 'Vision for Oundle' is to be realised acknowledges the importance of links between the town and the surrounding villages, but the Plan includes no strategies for enhancing them.

Three issues that directly affect our three villages need to be addressed more fundamentally:-

1. Nearly twenty pages of the report are devoted to meeting the target of building 312 more houses, yet the provision for parking that such households will need in the town centre is woefully inadequate. Increased volume of cars will obviously impact adversely on villagers who depend on Oundle for shopping and other services, such as medical facilities, the post office, solicitors and the library.
2. The establishment of a circular cycle/pedestrian network will inevitably have implications for the surrounding villages, and will therefore require more attention to the upkeep of rural roads and verges. This will also necessitate the introduction of a voluntary 'code of conduct' for cyclists in order to establish more consideration for other road users, such as car drivers and horse riders, who currently have to navigate hazardous situations when swarms of cyclists take to the rural lanes and by-ways.
3. We are pleased that the historic assets of Oundle are highlighted, but regret that the Plan fails to link this more coherently to the unique characteristics of the surrounding countryside in our Parishes, such as the Nene Valley, Rockingham Forest, the Tresham Trail, etc. Tourism is a missed opportunity that the Plan needs to exploit more explicitly, especially as we have two public houses/ restaurants and one teashop that cater for visitors from the Oundle area.

It is disappointing that the villages have not been given any consideration on issues of mutual interest such as parking, access, tourism, amenities, etc. Parish council members of local surrounding villages at the Joint Parishes Meetings have insisted on several occasions in the past to Oundle Town Council members that the villages need to be taken into consideration in the plan for the future of the town. Without local villages to support its commerce, tourism, entertainment and sport, Oundle would be a very different place.

Stoke Doyle, Pilton & Wadenhoe Parish Council, 18 May 2018