



Oundle Town Council

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Wednesday 21st July 2021

Cllr Jason Smithers
North Northants Council
Sheerness House
Meadow Road
Kettering
NN16 8TL

Dear Cllr Smithers

I write today after a long and slightly dispiriting meeting of Oundle Town Council last night. There was a long list of issues for us to talk about, from problems with the town's physical infrastructure and provision of medical care, to the chances of the town having a huge proportionate growth forced upon us in the next 5 years – and (to paraphrase Schumacher) a feeling of us simply trying to rearrange the deck-chairs on the Titanic.

OTC's function is to be the foundation of local government but in all the issues noted above we hear the concerns of local residents (our neighbours), but we have so few statutory powers to achieve change; and are only too aware of how little attention is given to those concerns when we pass them on. It is as if Oundle is not heard, despite gov.uk referring to a parish council's role as to "provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action".

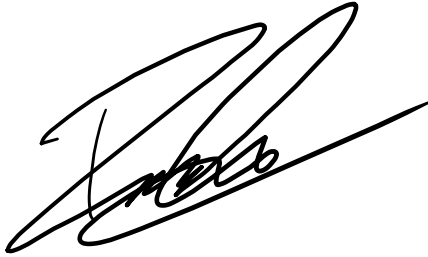
So, a plea from OTC to you all, as individuals, and as representatives of the residents of Oundle, to urgently help Oundle with the needs of our near future. In particular, we need

- Engagement from the NNC planning authority directly with us and Oundle's residents to consider as soon as possible the **overall** impact of the huge proposed changes for our town;;
- Engagement from NNC to ensure Oundle is better able to cope with the growing and changing demands, especially Highways, ideally with our planned Transport Study;

- Engagement with utility and health providers to work together to better provide effective services for residents, of all ages.

Clearly this won't be easy, but as the response to Covid has shown, the unimaginable remains thus only until it happens. Oundle and it's hinterland feels left out yet imposed upon - some unity in approach is urgently needed. As a first step, might Helen, Jason & Annabel meet Oundle Town Council at the earliest opportunity for an exploratory discussion as to how the engagement we are looking for could be achieved?

Yours as ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Clark', written in a cursive style.

Ian Clark,

Oundle Town Council Mayor

cc Cllr Helen Harrison, Cllr Annabel de Capell Brooke, Tom Pursglove MP, Cllr David Howes

