Cherwell District Council - May 2026

Local Elections 2026

Thank you to everyone who voted, campaigned, worked in a polling station or stood.
I firmly believe in local democracy and your participation is greatly welcomed.

Even though the elections are over, the repercussions are now playing out in both Chard District Council and in Oxfordshire County Council. We've seen a change of leader in both councils in quite dramatic circumstances.

The political balance has changed and there are new people sitting on councils, many for the first time. It's a very interesting time to be in local politics and we mustn't lose the focus that we're all just here to help the people that we represent. It doesn't matter what tier of council we are, parish, district or county, we are here for the people.

The ramifications are also being felt in Westminster. I'm sure you are following what's going on within the Labour Party. I was recently in London for a series of meetings and whilst they were interesting, the conversations in the corridors of power were more so. Snatched snippets of mobile phone calls in lifts and in corridors as people jostle for position, as alliances are made and as views are expressed. It's completely reasonable to imagine backbench Labour MPs thinking about the pounding they have just taken and what that would mean should they do it again next May especially considering the importance of elections to shadow authorities under local government reform.

It will be fascinating to see the appetite that the government has for both the devolution programme and for the continuation of the LGR project. Whatever happens, I can assure you that the officers at Cherwell will work collegiately to try and do the very best they can to ease any transition to a new structure is as smoothly as possible.
This won't happen overnight.
I know that Berkshire has been working on a unified planning system for the last five years and still hasn't got there.
The projected cost savings? Well, I can't imagine that any of those that were promised are going to be stood by, but as we get some clarity from government as to the direction we're going, work will continue.

Once again, for all those who voted, thank you. For all those that voted for my party, thank you very much. But whatever happens, we are here to serve.

Political balance (current)

20 Liberal Democrats councillors
8 Conservative Cllrs
8 Labour Cllrs
6 Reform Cllrs
4 Green Cllrs
2 independent Cllrs
48 in total

Blandford Fly

Recent casework has included reports of Blandford Fly so I asked officers at CDC what this council though (From Tim Hughes, Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety)

Through my enquires with colleagues here at CDC I have not been able to confirm when treatment for this particular fly was carried out in the past (or when and how the decision to stop the treatment programme was made), by CDC independently or with any other organisations. Our Landscapes Team colleagues have confirmed that there is no CDC policy for the control of Blandford Fly.

We have previously contacted public health colleagues at the County Council and they advised they do not treat or deal with watercourses so they have had no involvement in control of this insect. As these particular flies are associated with water courses the Environment Agency may have some involvement, however, a search of their website showed no information regarding treatment of Blandford Fly. I can also find no evidence health authorities have any involvement in treating areas for Blandford Fly. Typically, their approach is to provide advice like wearing long trousers and long sleeve tops to limit the chance of bites, and basic advice on what to do where individuals have been bitten.

So, currently there is no policy for Cherwell DC to treat or undertake actions intended to control this insect and as a district council we have no direct statutory responsibility to do so. I would be of the opinion that if treatment were to be carried out this would need to be led by OCC and or public health colleagues. Whether CDC would contribute to any treatment if public health colleagues were to consider it necessary, would need to be a policy change and a members decision.

I hope this sets out our position sufficiently to allow you to respond adequately to the query you received?

If you wanted to discuss further or you receive any follow-up when you respond then please do be in touch.

Kind regards, Tim

School bus transport to Warriner

Residents in Clifton are in the difficult position that the County Council have decided that an arbitrary line divides this village in two.

Those families with school-aged children who live on one side of this divide will get school transport to Warriner, which is where everyone in the village using OCC transport currently goes and those just next door are being offered transport to Heyford School, where no-one currently attends as there isn't a bus service at the moment.
The issue is compounded by the bus for Warriner being far from full and the Warriner isn't at capacity.

May I ask you all if you have a similar issue in your community?

Finally, if you need my help with anything, please do get in touch.

Cllr David Rogers
Cherwell District Council