

Cuddesdon and Denton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Comments on Consultation Submissions

1. The principal submission is from South Oxfordshire District Council and the Parish Council would like to comment on it.
2. The SODC submission has three main areas:
 - the classification and sustainability of Cuddesdon and Denton;
 - heritage issues;
 - technical planning matters
3. The discussion on the classification and sustainability of Cuddesdon and Denton seems to be becoming somewhat laboured. It was originally included because we were wrong-footed by the error in the classification, not discovering it until after we had submitted the first draft of the plan. It was therefore necessary to explain this in more detail so residents could understand the issue.

There is no intention to suggest there is an additional category between 'smaller' and 'other' but there is an attempt to explain the scoring system.

4. Tied up with the classification is the issue of sustainability. The Parish Council believes that describing Cuddesdon and Denton as unsustainable is a statement of fact, based on the original environmental definition of the word. It recognises that the planning system uses a more nuanced definition but since much of the plan flows from the environmental definition, it is important that this is captured in some way.
5. Turning to heritage issues: Our approach is closely based on the Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan, which include photographs and brief descriptions of the building types and heritage groupings. We made a number of changes and additions in response to SODC's comments on our pre-submission plan.

The Parish Council has considered the character assessment for Wallingford referred to by SODC. It appreciates that it is useful for a town which considers itself of 'national importance'. However, it considers it disproportionate for a small parish such as Cuddesdon and Denton which is not a conservation area and which is unlikely to have many planning applications. The Parish Council would need to employ professional expertise to carry out such an exercise and it does not think it would be a good use of public money.

The Parish Council notes that the Baldons were not asked to produce such an assessment. It also notes the comments from Historic England in response to the pre-submission consultation:

"We find this to be a well researched and useful document that should prove influential as a guide for decision makers in particular in assessing and prioritising the conservation of the parish's attractive character, which is so ably assessed and documented. We have no objections to raise to the plan and congratulate the steering group on its preparations."

6. Lastly, the Parish Council does not have the competence to comment on the more technical planning matters.