

## Response 1: ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-08-03 22:42:11

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Individual

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Mrs

Name:

Ann Tomline

Job title (if relevant):

[REDACTED]

Organisation (if relevant):

Organisation representing (if relevant):

Address line 1:

[REDACTED]

Address line 2:

[REDACTED]

Address line 3:

[REDACTED]

Postal town:

[REDACTED]

Post code:

[REDACTED]

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

I do not live in the village but attend as a patient the excellent Doctor's surgery as do several other people in Long Wittenham . On Sundays the Catholic Church use the Community Church for Mass and I and many residents of Berinsfield and the surrounding area also . There is a very diverse community who attend the church on a Sunday but no real Community Hall that can be used to bring Communities together.

The Coop and Post Office are used by locals and people from around the area.

The large development of housing proposed will cause the only road into the village of Berinsfield to become very congested during the development and I would hope arrangements will be made for another entry to the building sites.

I just want to make these observations regarding the proposed development which I consider excessive for the area .

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

[REDACTED]

Public hearing

6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

Yes, I request a public hearing

Public hearing

7 Please state your specific reasons for requesting a public hearing below:

Public hearing textbox:

The residents of Berinsfield should have the chance to make their views known and the surrounding villages who will be affected by this proposed development. There should be a full consultation not a rushed decision which does not take into consideration the views of the people who will have to live with the final decision.

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

[REDACTED]

Other, please specify:

[REDACTED]

## Response 2: ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-05 18:02:41

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Organisation

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

[REDACTED]

Name:

[REDACTED]

Job title (if relevant):

Manager

Organisation (if relevant):

Oxford Wet n Wild Limited

Organisation representing (if relevant):

Queenford Lakes

Address line 1:

Burcot Lane

Address line 2:

Berinsfield

Address line 3:

Postal town:

Wallingford

Post code:

OX10 7PQ

Telephone number:

01865341418

Email:

queenfordlakes@outlook.com

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

The businesses at Queenford Lakes in Berinsfield would like to submit the following representations in respect of the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Parish Council, NDP Steering Group and local community should be applauded for continuing to try to produce a neighbourhood plan which reflects the needs of residents, businesses and the wider local community as Berinsfield transitions into a thriving garden village.

These comments focus on the former mineral site to the south of the parish known as Queenford Lakes Watersports Centre.

The site remains within the Oxford Green Belt despite the Parish Council seeking to inset it as part of the Local Green Belt Study for SODC which took place 2015 (Appendix F of the final report dated 14 September 2015 shows the community's preferred inset boundary).

Berinsfield originally embarked on its NDP in response to the allocation of 118 new homes in the adopted Core Strategy but the first version which contained many forward thinking policies including NDO's covering a hotel and boat building factory at Queenford Lakes were deemed too ambitious and premature against the backdrop of an emerging Local Plan and a village still washed over by the green belt.

Sadly more than 10 years on and nothing much has changed. No new homes built, shops, businesses and key services closing and planning policies which fail to encourage or promote the environment necessary for businesses or families to grow. This latest version of the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan needs to focus much more on helping to deliver genuine opportunities for local housing and jobs.

Queenford Lakes sits within the parish of Berinsfield (now a Garden Community) which itself sits within the Science Vale Area and provides an opportunity to add real value to the aspirations for Berinsfield. Over recent years the Garden Communities Team have considered using the extensive water area at Queenford Lakes for water source heat exchangers to help provide sustainable energy for the 1900 new homes planned for the village. Local businesses such as Williams Jet Tenders and the Aston Martin Museum plus a major international hotel brand have all expressed interest in moving to the site due to its lovely setting, good transport links and proximity to Berinsfield as an employment hub but planning policies need to be much more supportive instead of falling back on the green belt status of the site.

The site should properly be described as 'previously developed land' or brownfield land due to its history as a mineral processing plant and more recently its year-round recreational use together with associated buildings, cafe, workshops and now a contemporary eco-friendly self-build home near to the main entrance. The new Government is soon to announce major changes to the NPPF which may designate sites such as Queenford Lakes as 'Grey Belt' due to their previously developed history and the contribution they can play to ambitious programmes such as garden communities.

Policy BERIN 6 should make specific reference to Queenford Lakes to remove any ambiguity over the site's status.

The policies map on Page 35 of the plan needs to be enlarged to take in all of Queenford Lakes and the site needs to be hatched purple together with the businesses at the Deacon's Estate to the west of the parish. Queenford Lakes currently provides employment for over 30-40 people (more during the summer season) yet we don't even feature on the policies map.

We would like to see a paragraph inserted into the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan which positively talks about the site and the opportunity it can plan in the future vision for Berinsfield.

Suggested policy wording could read:

Queenford Lakes has evolved alongside Berinsfield following mineral extraction in the 1950's and 60's.

Today the 32ha site together with its scenic lakes provides welcome local employment, extensive recreational facilities as well as attracting tourism to Berinsfield. Much of the site is classed as 'previously developed land' or 'brownfield land' and there is an opportunity to help support the transition of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village by supporting proposals which improve local employment opportunities such as a hotel, automotive museum, sporting centre of excellence or modest retirement community. The site already benefits from recreational use together with associated buildings and any redevelopment of this former mineral processing site should deliver an improvement in habitats for nature as well as wider ecological benefits. Proposals which include provision of renewable energy through water source heat transfer technology will be particularly supported.

It is unclear when the Government will finalise its planned changes to the NPPF in terms of introducing a 'Grey Belt' policy but it is probably wise to include a suitable policy within the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan in order to try to future-proof the plan.

We have attached several scanned documents to evidence much of what has been set out in these representations.

Thank you.

You can upload supporting evidence here:

Scan0579 Berinsfield NDP Reps from Queenford Lakes.pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

Suggested policy wording could read:

Queenford Lakes has evolved alongside Berinsfield following mineral extraction in the 1950's and 60's.

Today the 32ha site together with its scenic lakes provides welcome local employment, extensive recreational facilities as well as attracting tourism to Berinsfield. Much of the site is classed as 'previously developed land' or 'brownfield land' and there is an opportunity to help support the transition of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village by supporting proposals which improve local employment opportunities such as a hotel, automotive museum, sporting centre of excellence or modest retirement community. The site already benefits from recreational use together with associated buildings and any redevelopment of this former mineral processing site should deliver an improvement in habitats for nature as well as wider ecological benefits. Proposals which include provision of renewable energy through water source heat transfer technology will be particularly supported.

It is unclear when the Government will finalise its planned changes to the NPPF in terms of introducing a 'Grey Belt' policy but it is probably wise to include a suitable policy within the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan in order to try to future-proof the plan.

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

Public hearing

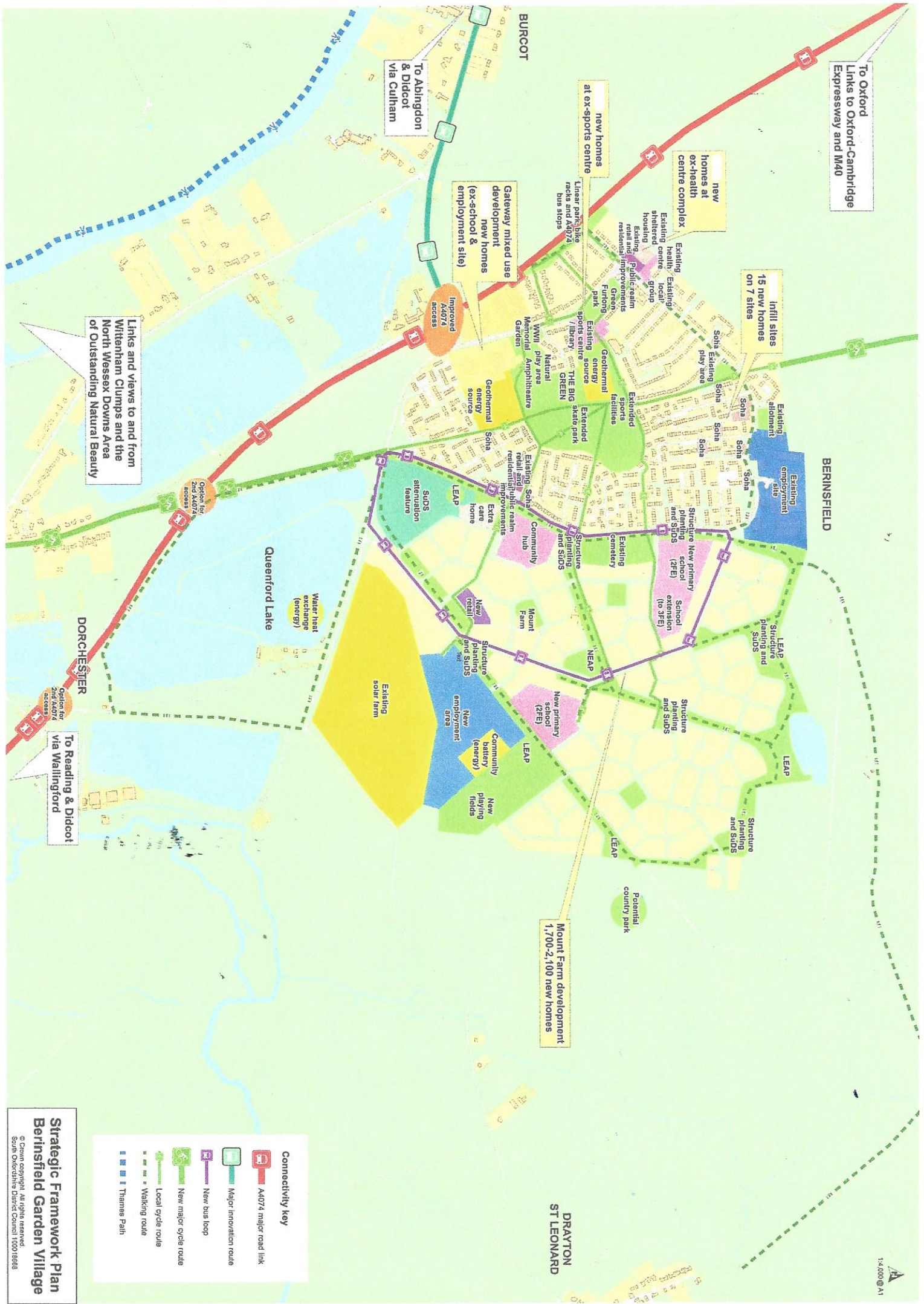
6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

I don't know

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:



To Oxford  
Links to Oxford-Cambridge  
Expressway and M40

To Abingdon  
& Didcot  
via Culham

Links and views to and from  
Wittham Clumps and the  
North Wessex Downs Area  
of Outstanding Natural Beauty

To Reading & Didcot  
via Wallingford

BERINSFIELD

DRAYTON  
ST LEONARD

**Connectivity key**

- A4074 major road link
- Major innovation route
- New bus loop
- New major cycle route
- Local cycle route
- Walking route
- Thames Path

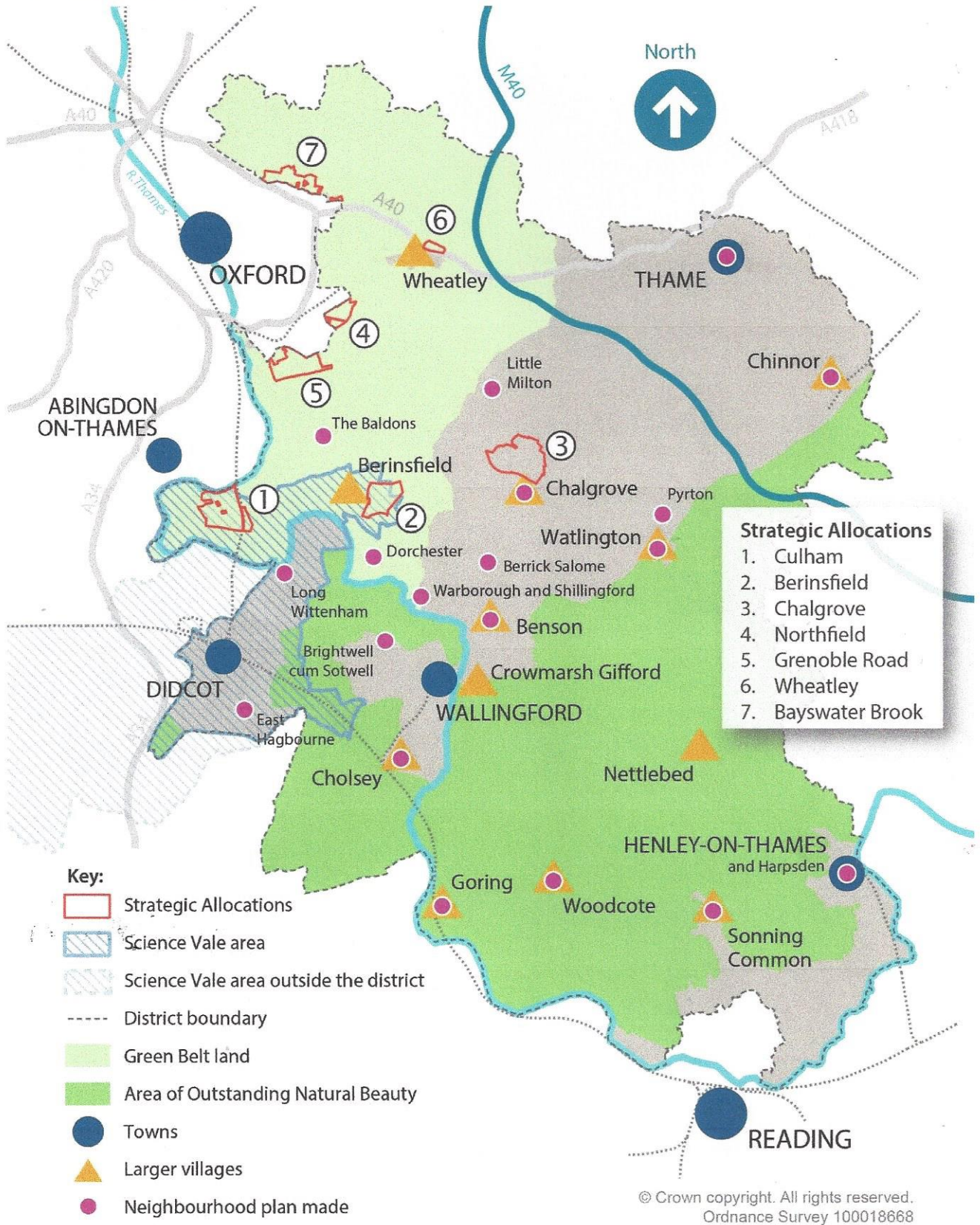


Figure 2 - South Oxfordshire District Map

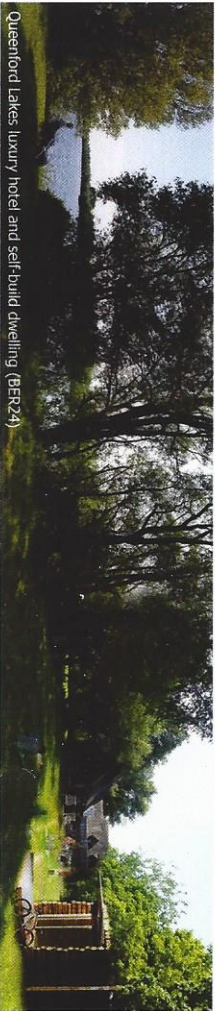
# BERINSFIELD IN 2027?



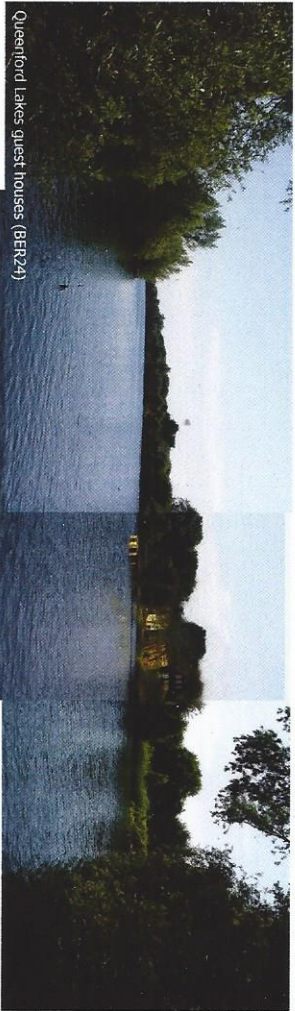
Park and Ride (BER3)



Queenford Lakes complex with new Williams manufacturing plant, watersports centre and restaurant (BER24)



Queenford Lakes luxury hotel and self-build dwelling (BER24)



Queenford Lakes guest houses (BER24)



# **WILLIAMS**

performance tenders

29/5/2014

Dear Neighbourhood Planning Group,

Williams Performance Tenders supports the work you are doing in preparing a neighbourhood development plan for Berinsfield.

We manufacture boats via a factory premises we rent in Vogue Business Park and we have done so since 2005. We currently employ 45 staff many of who live in the village, and are running an apprenticeship scheme (supported by EAG) for young people who live locally. In addition to our main factory premises, we lease storage space at Queenford Farm as well as buildings and one of the lakes at the Queenford Lakes water sports centre for our R&D and boat testing.

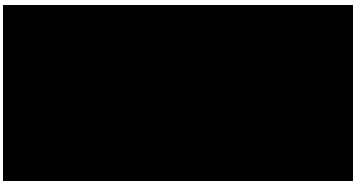
Since our business started we have built over 5000 boats in Berinsfield, this makes Williams the UK's largest manufacturer of boats by volume. We test nearly all our boats on the lake to the south of the village before being packed up for shipping, and this necessitates us trailering boats daily up and down Fane Drive. We also ship boats directly from our factory every day which means a number of articulated lorries regularly using Fane Drive.

Our long term aspiration would be to move our manufacturing operations next to the lake so that we could water test our craft straight from the factory. We support any Neighbourhood Planning proposals which help us achieve our strategic aims and to grow our business locally, and we place considerable value on the water access we currently benefit from and which we believe is so essential to our business. Current forecasts are that we will need to employ another 20 staff by 2017.

We have read the text within the draft Scoping Report currently under consultation and we would correct only a minor point which is we now employ 45 staff not just the 38 referred to on page 15.

Please keep us informed of progress.

Yours Sincerely,



Director

Four Pillars Hotels  
Olney House  
Ducklington Lane  
Witney  
OX28 4EX

T: 01993 700100  
F: 01993 700101  
E: [reception@four-pillars.co.uk](mailto:reception@four-pillars.co.uk)  
W: [www.four-pillars.co.uk](http://www.four-pillars.co.uk)



CH/MB

27<sup>th</sup> February 2012

To whom it may concern

Four Pillars Hotel Group has been in discussion with the owners of Queenford Lakes Water Sports Centre near Berinsfield regarding their plans to redevelop the former mineral site to include a 120 bedroom resort hotel. We have had input into the size, position, proximity to essential services and facilities, which we believe to be the key factors affecting the long term success of a resort operation in this location.

Four Pillars Hotels understand the hotel market in Oxfordshire very well as we already operate four successful hotels within the county as well as our two resort properties in Gloucestershire, the Cotswold Water Park and Tortworth Court.

We estimate that a hotel of the size planned would create in the region of 85 new jobs locally and would generate considerable tourism benefits for South Oxfordshire and the surrounding area.

Queenford Lakes is well served by road, rail and air with sufficient gas, electricity and water supplies being available on, under or close to the site. Four Pillars Hotels have seen the proposed sketch layout for the lakes and supports the redevelopment of this brownfield site and the planned redevelopment of Culham along with the regeneration of Berinsfield.

[Redacted Signature]

Chief Executive

*With us, you're at home*

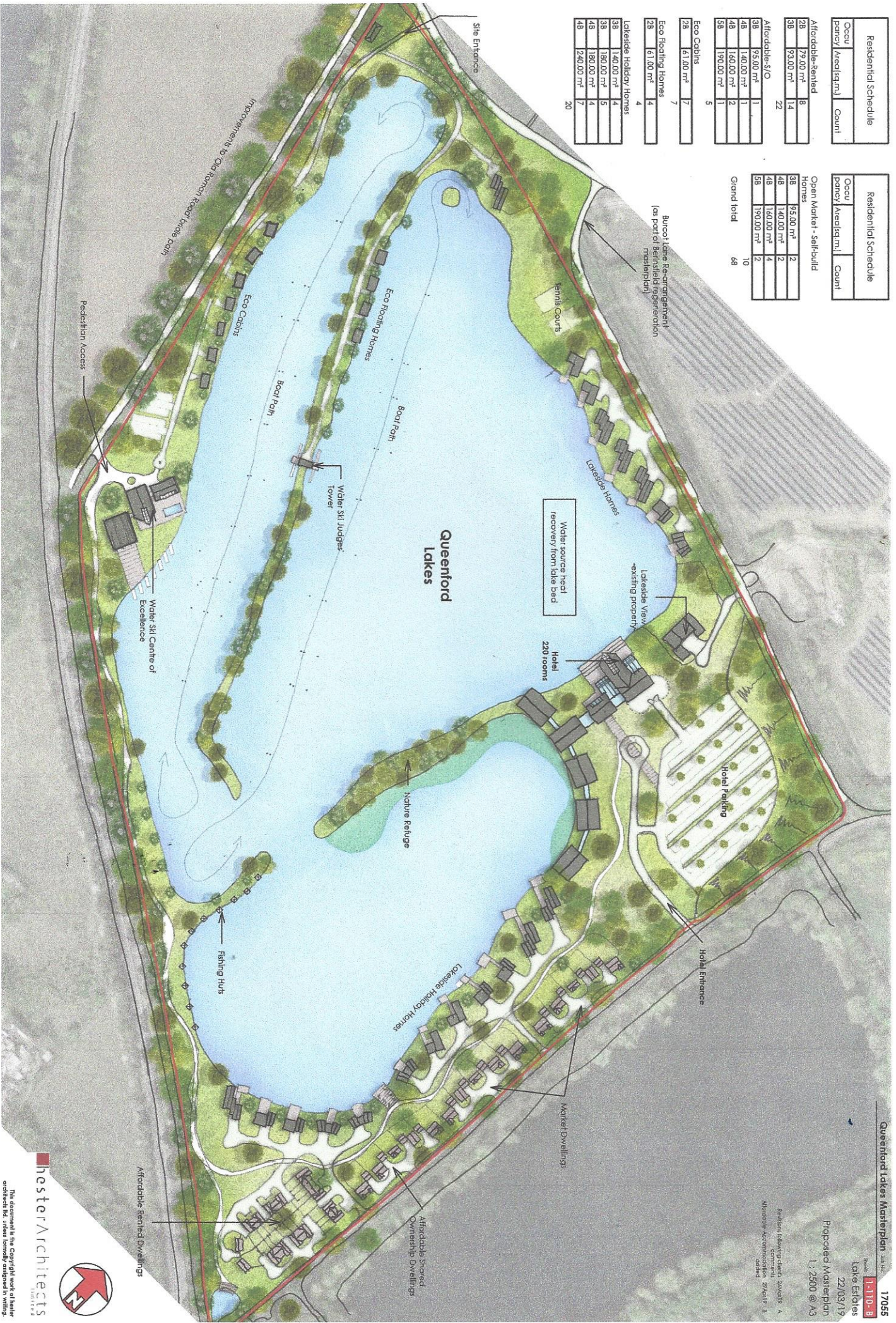
Part of Four Pillars Hotels

Four Pillars Hotels Limited  
Registered & Head Office: Olney House,  
Ducklington Lane, Witney,  
Oxfordshire, OX28 4EX  
Registered in England No: 1303927

Central Reservations: 0845 850 88 55

Online Bookings: [www.four-pillars.co.uk](http://www.four-pillars.co.uk)

Email: [sales@four-pillars.co.uk](mailto:sales@four-pillars.co.uk)



Residential Schedule		
Occu pancy/ Area(sq.m.)	Count	
2B	79,000 m <sup>2</sup>	8
3B	93,000 m <sup>2</sup>	14
Affordable s/O		
5B	95,000 m <sup>2</sup>	1
4B	140,000 m <sup>2</sup>	1
4B	160,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
5B	190,000 m <sup>2</sup>	1
Eco Cabins		
2B	61,000 m <sup>2</sup>	7
Eco Flooding Homes		
2B	61,000 m <sup>2</sup>	4
Lakeside Holiday Homes		
3B	140,000 m <sup>2</sup>	4
3B	180,000 m <sup>2</sup>	5
4B	180,000 m <sup>2</sup>	4
4B	240,000 m <sup>2</sup>	7
20		

Residential Schedule		
Occu pancy/ Area(sq.m.)	Count	
Open Market - Self-build		
3B	95,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
4B	140,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
4B	160,000 m <sup>2</sup>	4
5B	190,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
Grand total		
		68

Residential Schedule		
Occu pancy/ Area(sq.m.)	Count	
Open Market - Self-build		
3B	95,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
4B	140,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
4B	160,000 m <sup>2</sup>	4
5B	190,000 m <sup>2</sup>	2
Grand total		
		10



## Response 3: ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-12 10:09:42

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Agent

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Name:  
[REDACTED]

Job title (if relevant):

Planning Director

Organisation (if relevant):

Lichfields

Organisation representing (if relevant):

Countryside Properties (part of the Vistry Group)

Address line 1:

Apex Plaza

Address line 2:

Forbury Road

Address line 3:

Postal town:

Reading

Post code:

RG1 1AX

Telephone number:

Email:

[REDACTED]@lichfields.uk

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

These representations are submitted by Lichfields on behalf of our clients, Countryside Properties (part of the Vistry Group) and the landowners Corpus Christi College Oxford and S J Farrant & Son Ltd. The representations relate to Land North of Berinsfield (hereafter "our client's site", as shown on the accompanying Site Location Plan).

Our clients submitted representations in response to the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation of the emerging Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (eBNDP) in November 2023. The Consultation Statement (CS, 2024) accompanying the eBNDP acknowledged receipt of our clients' Regulation 14 representations.

More recently in February 2024, representations have been submitted to the Regulation 18 consultation on the Preferred Options of the Joint Local Plan (JLP) for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWH) 2041. Our clients' representations to the JLP are referred to within these representations to the eBNDP, and we would be happy to provide a full copy if this would assist.

##### 1) Overview

We recognise at the outset that the eBNDP is unable to consider allocation of our client's site by reason of its Green Belt status. Instead, the potential for further Green Belt release within Berinsfield and elsewhere will be a matter that is considered through the JLP process, which our clients continue to

engage with. The CS notes this, and the intention of Vistry's representations to date as drawing Berinsfield Parish Council's, and SODC's, attention to what are regarded as the potential for Land north of Berinsfield to contribute to the allocated Garden Village.

The purpose of these representations is to highlight the opportunities presented by the potential future development of our client's site, as part of the proposals for Berinsfield Garden Village (alongside the adopted South Oxfordshire Local Plan (SOLP) 2035 policies STRAT10 and STRAT10i), also known as "Land at Mount Farm".

The emerging proposals of our client's site would complement the existing village alongside the land allocated under policy STRAT10i to form an appropriately sized Garden Village, increasing the village's sustainability and delivering significant benefits that are commensurate with this form of development.

## 2) National Planning Context

The Government is consulting on a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024). Proposed changes of particular relevance to our client's site include:

- A newly proposed "Standard Method" (SM) for calculating housing need. The proposed SM housing need figure (excluding provision for unmet need) is significantly higher than the housing need being planned for in the emerging JLP (JLP Reg. 18 Part 2 consultation) as follows:
  - JLP Average housing need for South Oxfordshire: 853 homes
  - JLP housing need for South Oxfordshire across a 20 year plan period: 17,060 homes
  - Proposed SM housing need per annum for South Oxfordshire: 1,179 homes
  - Proposed SM housing need for South Oxfordshire across a 20 year plan period: 23,580 homes
- Confirming the requirement for Local Planning Authorities that cannot meet their identified housing needs to review Green Belt boundaries and propose alterations so needs can be met in full, where this would not fundamentally undermine the function of the Green Belt across the area of the plan as a whole.
- Making provision for development of "Grey Belt" in sustainable locations, subject to meeting the requirements set out within draft NPPF.
- Emphasising that "effective strategic planning across local planning authority boundaries will play a vital and increasing role in how sustainable growth is delivered and key spatial issues, including meeting housing needs".

Under the consultation NPPF the emerging JLP would need to plan for over 38 % additional homes across SODC since the earlier Reg 18 draft.

The consultation NPPF also recognises the opportunities to utilise Green Belt land to meet housing (and other) needs and states (para 155) that where land is released from the Green Belt contributions should be made for:

- At least 50 % affordable housing (subject to viability);
- Improvements to local and national infrastructure; and
- The provision of new or improved green spaces that are accessible to the public

Our client's site at Berinsfield has the potential to be released from Green Belt to help contribute to national housing objectives, and assist in meeting local housing needs.

These representations go on to summarise the key benefits that development of our client's site could bring, and their alignment with the vision and objectives of the eBNDP, recognising that the subsequent release of our client's site, and its allocation for housing, employment and other uses (including community facilities) would come forward through an emerging Local Plan rather than the eBNDP.

## 3) Local Plan Context

The current SOLP 2035 (adopted in 2020) acknowledge that "Exceptional circumstances" for releasing land from the Green Belt in Berinsfield were demonstrated. These Exceptional Circumstances can be summarised as follows:

- The need to meet identified housing needs;
- Rebalancing of the housing mix in Berinsfield;
- Enhancing opportunities for employment and service provision; and
- Addressing deprivation and isolation.

The SOLP 2035 inset the built-up area of Berinsfield Village from the Green Belt via policy STRAT10 and allocated Land at Berinsfield Garden Village via policy STRAT10i for the development of around 1,700 dwellings with at least 5 hectares of additional employment land and supporting services and facilities. In May 2024, Ptarmigan Land submitted to SODC the "Land at Mount Farm, Berinsfield Garden Village – Masterplan Framework Document" which represents the first stage in the masterplanning process of Berinsfield Garden Village.

SODC and VoWH are currently in the process of producing the JLP 2041, which will supersede the SOLP 2035, once adopted. Our clients have engaged with JLP process throughout and most recently submitted representations in February 2024 to the Regulation 18 Preferred Options Consultation. In summary our client's representations (which preceded publication of the consultation NPPF – summarised above) highlighted that:

- The amount of housing planned in the current iteration of the JLP will not support the number of jobs anticipated and there is a serious risk of

undesirable and unsustainable outcomes relating to commuting, the environment and affordability. The subsequent iteration of the JLP will need to revisit housing need and identify further sites to meet a higher level of housing need.

- Our client's site is an appropriate location for residential development which will contribute towards meeting the housing needs and deliver significant benefits for Berinsfield. Our client's site provides the opportunity to deliver up to 3,000 dwellings of a range of housing alongside a number of benefits, including significant investment for the existing village, new job creation, training and employment opportunities, education provision and community facilities.

Our client's site provides the opportunity to, in tandem with allocation STRAT10i, bring forward an enhanced and comprehensive Garden Village at Berinsfield to deliver substantial social, economic and environmental benefits to "support the transformation of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village" (eBNDP, 2024, para. 3.6) and to achieve "sustained economic growth with new homes and more jobs." (eBNDP, 2024, p.9). The benefits of planning for growth on a comprehensive basis such as this are clearly stated by the NPPF (2023) para. 74:

"The supply of large numbers of new homes can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns, provided they are well located and designed, and supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities (including a genuine choice of transport modes)..."

#### 4) Benefits of the Emerging Proposals at Land North of Berinsfield and Alignment with the Vision and Objectives of the eBNDP

Our clients welcome the eBNDP's vision of transforming Berinsfield into a "dynamic garden village community planning for sustained economic growth with new homes and more jobs" (eBNDP, 2024, p.9). Our clients has an established legacy arising from acting as Master Developer on sites nationwide, creating sustainable new communities, and integrating them with existing neighbourhoods.

The emerging proposals of our client's site would provide greater critical mass to the currently somewhat undersized Garden Village proposals allocated by policy STRAT10i, enabling delivery of transformative infrastructure and benefits which are aligned with the objectives and vision of the eBNDP as follows.

#### Housing

Berinsfield's historic imbalance in tenure mix of existing housing stock was clearly evidenced during the SOLP 2035. Additionally, the eBNDP aims to support the provision of "a better mix of housing types including smaller single-storey homes, affordable homes and self-build", "provision of homes for younger people and young families" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10) and "caters to the needs of an ageing population" (eBNDP, 2024, Policy BERIN2). We note the majority of local residents (63%) are in favour of new housing being built at Berinsfield (eBNDP, 2024, para. 3.2).

Our client's site would provide further opportunities to provide a varied mix and tenure of housing to address historic imbalance and meet Berinsfield's housing needs. Our client's site would be capable of providing a range of housing for all including vulnerable people, accommodating people with families or those who wish to downsize or get a foot onto the housing ladder as first-time buyers. There will be additional delivery of high-quality affordable housing, together with a number of accessible and adaptable properties enabling people to stay in their homes as their needs change. Homes will be future proofed to allow for flexible working arrangements. The proposals could accommodate living options for older people creating a more inclusive settlement, where housing for all ages could be delivered. The proposals could accommodate housing plots for self-builders.

The emerging proposals would make significant contribution towards meeting the eBNDP's vision and objectives to:

- Plan for "sustained economic growth with new homes and more jobs" (eBNDP, 2024, p. 9)
- "support the provision of enough new high-quality housing that meets the needs of local people" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "support the rebalancing of tenure mix across the existing village and the new development which could include tenure swaps" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "support the provision of a better mix of housing types including smaller single-storey homes, affordable homes and self-build" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "support the provision of homes for younger people and young families and to counter the growing demographic imbalance" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "encourage and support home working" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "support the provision of affordable housing for local families" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)

#### Community Facilities

The emerging proposals of our client's site would be delivered through a 'One Village approach', supporting regeneration, sustainability and liveability of the village and its natural environment. Our client's emerging proposals have the opportunity to offer high-quality affordable housing and accessible community facilities, including educational facilities including early years, primary and secondary provision, local centres, employment land, scope for a foodstore, recreation and sports facilities, areas of publicly accessible open space and landscaping, including a Country Park.

The eBNDP highlights the ambition to provide the following:

- “the provision of one or more community hub locations” (eBNDP, 2024, para. 7.24)
- “...a hall that is available for community use, a community café, health provision and improved green and open spaces as part of the hub(s).” (eBNDP, 2024, para. 7.25)
- “Investment in cycle ways to include the old Roman Road” (eBNDP, 2024, para. 9.4)
- “More green amenity spaces” (eBNDP, 2024, para. 9.4)
- “Walking or jogging tracks” (eBNDP, 2024, para. 9.4)
- “Green energy initiatives (electric car-charging, solar panels, water harvesting)” (eBNDP, 2024, para. 9.4)
- “...improved or additional retail and leisure services and facilities...” (eBNDP, 2024, Policy BERIN14)
- “...extra space for allotments...” (eBNDP, 2024, Policy BERIN16)
- Improvement to “the buildings, facilities and associated infrastructure of existing sport and recreational sites within the parish of Berinsfield...” (eBNDP, 2024, Policy BERIN18)

Our clients’ emerging proposals provide the ability to contribute to their delivery alongside other new community facilities. This could be achieved in a comprehensive masterplan led approach that achieves enhanced placemaking and integration with the wider Garden Village proposals through walking and cycling routes. This would support the eBNDP’s objectives and aims of/to:

- “Maintaining the character and supporting the vitality of the village” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p. 10)
- “ensure that the village as a whole benefits from new sustainable housing and other local development.” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p. 10)
- “improve services (shopping, community, health, educational, leisure etc.) in the village” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p. 10)
- “increase the quality of, and opportunity for, indoor/outdoor sport and recreation and to support cycling and walking instead of motor vehicle use” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p. 10)
- “encourage and support local opportunities for skills development” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p. 10)
- “supporting and encouraging landscape, recreational and ecological improvements” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p. 11)

#### Landscaping, Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Net Gain

The emerging proposals for our client’s site would adopt a landscape-led approach to ensure that the proposals successfully integrate into the surrounding landscape, whilst creating a Garden Village which places green infrastructure at its heart.

A significant proportion of our client’s site will be dedicated to multi-functional green space including a country park, sports campus, ecological rich meadows, sustainable urban drainage, edible landscapes, play space and woodland, for existing and new residents to enjoy whilst creating a net gain in biodiversity. These spaces will be connected by a comprehensive green network promoting walking and cycling and will be integrated into the existing village of Berinsfield and the wider Garden Village to maximise benefits for all residents. The integrated network of green infrastructure within our client’s site will seek to link locally important wildlife sites and the enhancement of ecologically important habitats.

The emerging proposals would support the eBNDP’s objectives and aims to:

- “integrate new housing into Berinsfield in a sympathetic manner, preserving, and where possible, enhancing the rural look and feel of the parish.” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- “protect, enhance and conserve the landscape and views.” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- “protect and enhance the village’s green open spaces.” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- “conserve and enhance biodiversity and where possible create new areas for nature conservation.” (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)

#### Sustainable Transport

Berinsfield is already well connected via the A4074 to Oxford City Centre and is located close to an Innovation Corridor/Knowledge Spine and existing economic assets including Culham, Milton Park and Harwell. The proximity of our client’s site to these assets makes it well located to contribute towards economic development whilst also realising ambitions for placemaking, connectivity and environmental enhancement.

Our client’s emerging proposals include the opportunity to deliver a mobility hub which could function as a multi-modal interchange, providing seamless connections between the existing and proposed active travel networks and the inter-urban public transport network. It also has potential to act as a community hub through the inclusion of co-working space, cafés, bike repair, share stations, lockers and other facilities, and will also provide Electric Vehicle (EV) charging facilities and EV car clubs to facilitate car borne trips by such zero emission vehicles. It also provides the potential to include a Park

and Ride interchange, further removing vehicle trips from the wider highway network to Culham and Oxford.

Roads and pavements within our client's site would be designed to prioritise walking and cycling. The Roman Road in part runs across our client's site and the emerging proposals have the potential to provide enhancements as supported by Policy BERIN11 (Roman Road). The emerging proposals would enable Berinsfield to become a complete, compact and connected neighbourhood, where people can meet their everyday needs within a short walk or cycle.

The emerging proposals would contribute substantially towards the eBNDP's objectives and aims to/of:

- "supporting active travel and reducing the need to travel by car" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "support development within easy walking distance of employment, bus stops, the school, the health centre, shops and other village facilities" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "link all new developments to the village centre and nearby employment areas with footpaths or cycle-ways, wherever possible" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "support the progressive upgrade of existing footpaths for use by cycles and other types of wheelers" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "support improvements to public transport to and around Berinsfield" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "support improvements to access to the bus stops on the A.4074 including improved and better lighting for them" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "To support development designed to avoid current problems with congestion, parking and road safety ensuring these are not unacceptably exacerbated and, if appropriate, reduced." (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.11)
- "Creating greater opportunity to walk or cycle to work and to access public transport in safety" (eBNDP, 2024, para. 6.1)

#### Employment, Jobs and Skills

Berinsfield sits within the Science Vale and within the wider "Innovation Ecosystem" concept being promoted by the OxLEP. It is also located close to the recognised Innovation Corridor/Knowledge Spine and existing economic assets such as Culham Science Centre. Other nearby economics assets/clusters include Milton Park and Harwell.

The Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy recognises that whilst Oxfordshire is generally good at generating ideas through R&D to grow the local economy, there is a need to unlock more land and resources to improve access to business space. This is intended to enable such businesses to move from R&D to product development without having to find space outside of the County.

Notwithstanding its advantageous location within Oxfordshire, Berinsfield scores highly on the Indices of Deprivation (2019) in, amongst the others, the domains of income, employment, as well as education, skills and training, including adult skills, children and young people (SOLP 2035, para. 3.78). Our client's proposals have the potential to make a significant contribution towards the accessibility of education and the enhancement of employment skills. The proposal has the potential to deliver a secondary school on site, which would provide a major educational benefit not realised through the STRAT10i allocation.

Initial analysis suggests that a combination of flexible hybrid (office/workshop) space (Use Class E) and small-scale warehouses (Use Class B8) would be desirable on our client's site to meet latent demand and encourage people to live and work locally. Our client's site could also have potential to provide premises suitable for start-up and SMEs across a range of sectors, including R&D, and smaller business units to meet a diverse range of employment opportunities and emerging industries. This would provide enhanced opportunities for skills development and vocational employment opportunities.

The emerging proposals would make significant contributions towards supporting the eBNDP's vision and objectives to/of:

- Plan for "sustained economic growth with new homes and more jobs" (eBNDP, 2024, p.9)
- "Supporting development that enhances the prospects for employment" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "encourage and support local commercial enterprises." (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "support the provision of employment opportunities locally." (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "encourage and support local opportunities for skills development" (eBNDP, 2024, table 1, p.10)
- "...increase or enhance employment opportunities within the parish by supporting existing businesses to grow and creating opportunities for new businesses, local tourism and 'work from home' schemes to emerge." (eBNDP, 2024, para. 8.1)

#### Conclusion

Separate to the BNDP process there is a need for the JLP to identify further sites to meet a higher level of housing need and support economic growth, and it is expected that Exceptional Circumstances will exist to justify the release of further Green Belt land to meet this need.



Whilst recognising that these matters lie outside the remit of the BNDP these representations highlight how our client's emerging proposals would deliver substantial social, economic and environmental benefits for the village in alignment with the aspiration of the eBNDP and the local community.

Our clients would welcome the opportunity to meet with the BNDP Steering Group to discuss the proposals and significant opportunities they present for Berinsfield.

Enclosures

In addition to the above representations, our clients submit the Site Location Plan for Land North of Berinsfield to assist.

You can upload supporting evidence here:

1168 002 Berinsfield Garden Village Red Line Plan with allocation-A3 1-10k(20229429.1).pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

Whilst our clients hope that these representation inform discussion on the future development of Berinsfield they do not currently consider that any changes to the BNDP are necessary.

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?



## Public hearing

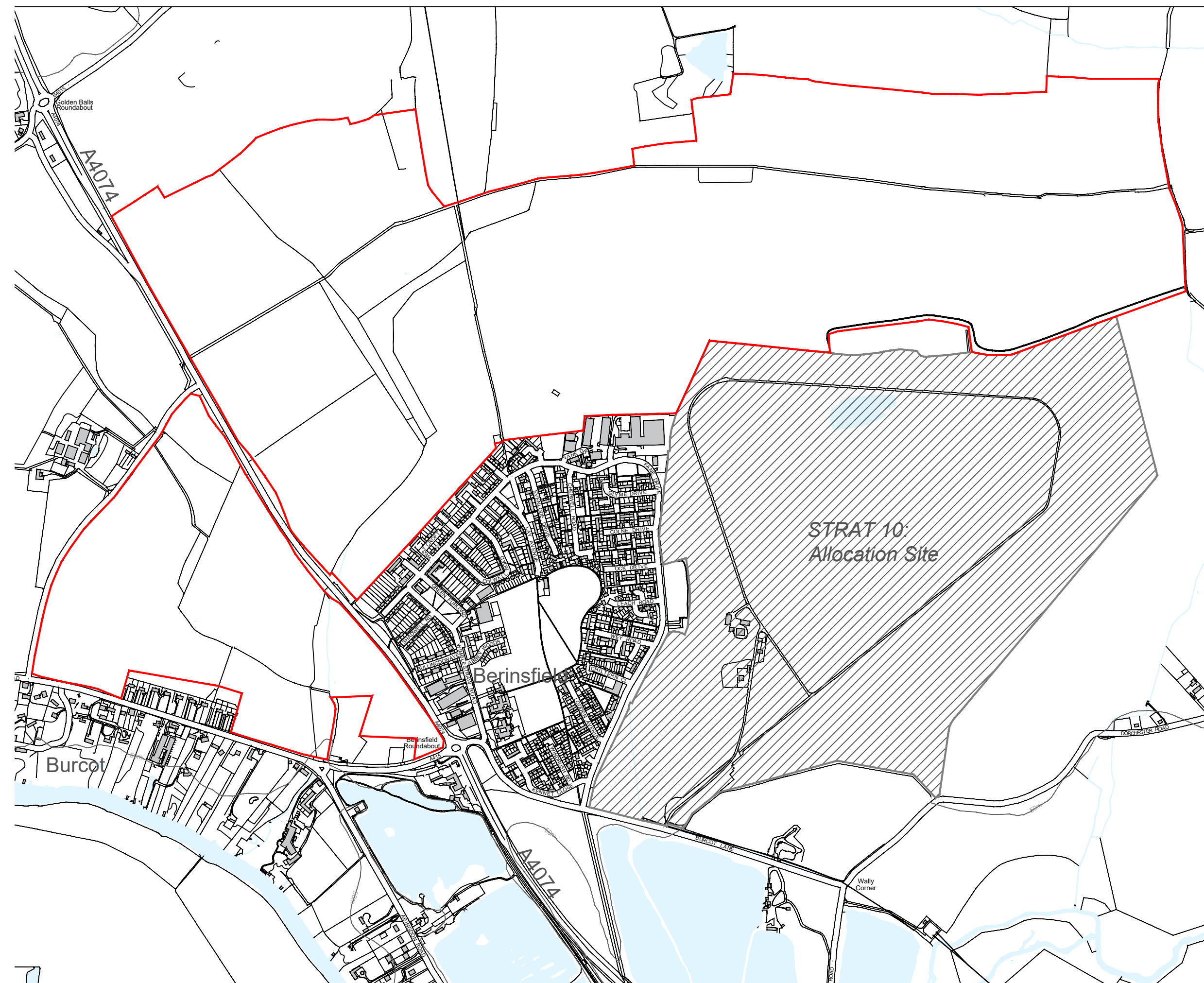
6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

No, I do not request a public hearing

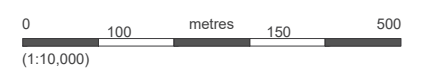
Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:



— Red line boundary 262.54ha



Project  
Berinsfield Garden Village

Drawing Title  
Location Plan

Date 29/09/2021	Scale 1:10,000 at A3	Drawn by LA	Check by LA
Project No 1168	Drawing No 002	Revision	-

## Response 4: [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-12 18:13:12

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Organisation

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Name:  
[REDACTED]

Job title (if relevant):  
Senior Planner

Organisation (if relevant):  
CBRE

Organisation representing (if relevant):  
Ptarmigan Planning 4 Ltd

Address line 1:  
Henritetta House

Address line 2:  
Henrietta Place

Address line 3:

Postal town:

London

Post code:  
W1G 0NB

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

Email:  
[REDACTED]@cbre.com

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached representations on behalf of Ptarmigan Planning 4 Ltd in relation to the Regulation 15 consultation on the draft Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan.

Once you've had the chance to review, please do let us know if you have any queries or if it would be helpful to discuss.

I'd be grateful if you could confirm receipt of these representations and keep us updated in terms of next steps.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

You can upload supporting evidence here:

Ptarmigan\_Final.pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

### Public hearing

6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

### Public hearing

7 Please state your specific reasons for requesting a public hearing below:

Public hearing textbox:

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:



CBRE, Inc.  
Henrietta House  
Henrietta Place  
London W1G 0NB  
+44 (0)20 7182 2656  
+ +44 7901 517521

██████████@cbre.com  
[www.cbre.com](http://www.cbre.com)

12 September 2024

Freepost,  
South and Vale Consultations

Dear Sir / Madam,

## Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024-2035 - Submission Version

### REGULATION 15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPRESENTATIONS

Thank you for inviting comments on Berinsfield Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan, which has recently been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council. CBRE Limited (hereafter CBRE) act as planning consultants to Ptarmigan Planning 4 Ltd (hereafter Ptarmigan) in respect of land at Mount Farm, Berinsfield, which is located within the eastern portion of the designated neighbourhood area.

The Land at Mount Farm site is a strategic allocation in the South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) Local Plan (Dec 2020) for around 1,700 units, at least 5 hectares of additional employment land and supporting services and facilities under Policy STRAT10i (Land at Berinsfield Garden Village). The allocation also requires the proposals to deliver necessary regeneration objectives for the existing village.

These representations follow our previous Regulation 14 representations submitted in November 2023 to the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan 2023-2035 Pre-Submission Version.

We hope these representations are of assistance and acceptable to help inform the planning policy approach.

### Ptarmigan Land

Ptarmigan Land is acting on behalf of the landowner at Mount Farm and are experienced in large scale residential development with over 18,000 homes presently being promoted through various stages of the planning process across the southeast.

Following appointment as promoter of the Land at Mount Farm site in January 2018, Ptarmigan have worked closely with the Infrastructure and Development Team at SODC with the aim of delivering the Council's vision for the regeneration of Berinsfield through the delivery of a high quality residential-led scheme that delivers not just new homes but also much needed social infrastructure, both in the existing village and the newly created extension. On this basis, the Land at Mount Farm site was allocated in SODC's Local Plan in December 2020.

Ptarmigan have since worked with the local community and, undertaking a range of community meetings, workshops and community planning weekends (consisting of workshops and "hands-on" planning exercises) to prepare an initial masterplan for the site. There has also been extensive engagement with SODC and OCC throughout this process. Following the most recent community and stakeholder engagement, in May 2024, Ptarmigan submitted a 'Masterplanning Framework Document' (MFD) to SODC.



The MFD is recognised as the first stage in the masterplanning process of Berinsfield Garden Village and illustrates a comprehensive vision for the Site and the village as a whole, setting out key masterplanning and delivery principles to facilitate high standards of design.

## Site Description

As set out above, the Land at Mount Farm site is allocated for development in the South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan (Dec 2020) for around 1,700 units, at least 5 hectares of additional employment land and supporting services and facilities under Policy STRAT10i (Land at Berinsfield Garden Village). This policy provides a list of infrastructure and design requirements that any development must comply with.

Policy STRAT10 (Berinsfield Garden Village) is also of relevance, given Berinsfield was awarded Garden Village status in June 2019. This policy sets out a series of garden village principles, which should be met across the existing village and new extension.

The site plan below shows the general site extent and location. It is noted that not all the land within Ptarmigan’s site boundary falls within the designated Neighbourhood Area. There are small portions of land to the north and northeast that are outside the neighbourhood area.



## Draft Neighbourhood Plan Representations

The comments in the sections below are set in the context of the following legal requirements and policy that a neighbourhood plan must comply with.

A Neighbourhood Plan must meet specified 'basic conditions' as set out within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. One of these is that *"the making of the order is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)"*.

Paragraph 29 of the NPPF sets out that *"Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies"*.

Footnote 16 states that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area.

Specific comments on the proposed policies are set out below, to ensure they align with the national requirements set out above.

## **Berinsfield' s Vision for the Future**

Ptarmigan support the overall vision statement for the plan, which recognises the history of the village and also the opportunities arising from future growth, as well as the positive recognition of the strategic allocation throughout the document.

## **Policy BERIN1: Affordable Housing**

As highlighted by CBRE in the previous round of representations, it is important to note the existing policies related to affordable housing within the SODC Local Plan:

- Local Plan Policy H9 notes that the Council will expect a tenure mix of 40% affordable rented, 35% social rented and 25% other affordable routes to home ownership with the exception of Land at Berinsfield Garden Village (see specific tenure considerations in Policy STRAT10i).
- Policy STRAT10i (Land at Berinsfield Garden Village) sets out that the proposals will be expected to deliver affordable housing provision in accordance with Policy H9 and a mix informed by robust local evidence that seeks to address existing local need as well as rebalance the mix of housing tenures across the Garden Village.

Further to this, Paragraph 134 of the SODC Local Plan Inspector's Report states in relation to STRAT10, the Local Plan *"allows for evidence-based variations in the tenure mix within the definition of affordable housing. This would allow for lower levels of social rented housing than sought on all other sites by Policy H9, and is consistent with MM27 which exempts Berinsfield from the tenure mix requirements of Policy H9. This is a sound approach."*

This approach was adopted by the Local Plan and found sound when tested at examination to allow for essential flexibility to deliver the maximum possible regeneration package for Berinsfield in terms of social infrastructure as the affordable housing provision is directly linked to the extent of social infrastructure improvements that can be delivered on the site. The Site Selection Document (January 2019) which is part of the SODC Local Plan evidence base states *"it is important that the matters of the overall level of affordable housing and tenure type is properly addressed since the regeneration aspirations of the community are to broaden the tenure offer of housing in the village."* It is therefore important that sufficient flexibility is allowed for in the policy (consistent with the Development Plan) to ensure the proposals can achieve this key objective.

In the context of the 'basic conditions' set out within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, it is not legally compliant to set a specific affordable tenure mix for the proposals pursuant to STRAT10i (Land at

Berinsfield Garden Village). The neighbourhood plan policy should recognise these specific percentages do not apply to the land subject to Policy STRAT10i, which is required to address local need as well as rebalance the mix of existing housing tenures across the whole village. It is Ptarmigan's aspiration to create a mixed and balanced community, in line Paragraph 64 of the NPPF and the Garden Village Principles set out within Local Plan Policy STRAT10. This approach has been acknowledged at paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 of the draft neighbourhood plan, which is supported, but needs to clearly set out within the policy itself.

In addition to the above, as a more general point, the policy should reflect the requirements of Local Plan Policy H9 (Affordable Housing) which sets out that in instances where the required level of affordable is unviable, alternative tenure mixes and levels of provision may be considered.

As per the Regulation 14 representations submitted by CBRE, and in order to align with the adopted Local Plan and the 'basic conditions' referenced above, it is important that that Policy BERIN1 should be worded as follows:

*"Development proposals with a net gain of ten or more dwellings (Use Class C3) or where the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more should deliver 40% affordable housing. **In circumstances where it can be adequately demonstrated that the level of affordable housing being sought would be unviable, alternative tenure mixes and levels of affordable housing provision, may be considered.**"*

*Taking into account the requirements for affordable housing set out in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 (Policy H9) as well as the requirement that at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered should be First Homes, the affordable housing tenure sought should be in accordance with the table below (**with the exception of the proposed development pursuant to Local Plan Policy STRAT10i**):*

- Social Rent : 35%
- Affordable Rent : 25%
- First Homes : 25%
- Other routes to affordable home ownership: 15%"

As noted above, Ptarmigan aspire to create a mixed and balanced community. The current proposed policy wording does not encourage Berinsfield Garden Village to respond to the high levels of social rented housing in the existing Berinsfield village, which was a requirement of the allocation and is a key priority of the SODC Local Plan. We therefore request that the policy is re-worded as above to allow Berinsfield Garden Village to respond to specific local market needs.

## **Policy BERIN2: Housing Mix & Design**

Ptarmigan support the aspiration of the draft policy to incorporate a mix of dwelling types and sizes. Given the scale of the of the site allocation it is important the wording remains flexible enough to create a mixed and balanced community through a range of unit sizes, recognising there will be a proportion of larger units (4+ bed) as part of the development whilst also recognising the needs of Berinsfield as a village and the wider SHMA area.

Part B of this policy notes that *"proposals that recognise the need for smaller dwellings and comprise single house, terraced cottages or groups of small detached or semi-detached houses with a maximum of 3 bedrooms will be particularly supported"*. Whilst the aspiration is supported, it is not appropriate for a neighbourhood plan to dictate whether or not dwellings are detached and it is unclear what "terraced cottages" are. The policy wording is vague and not required as design policies will cover this.



Part C of this policy notes that “*the growing need for housing which caters to the needs of an ageing population should be met by smaller dwellings, as well as extra-care housing*”. Whilst the aspiration of this is supported, it should be noted that there is no specific requirement within adopted Policy STRAT10i (Land at Berinsfield Garden Village) for extra-care housing. The specific type and quantum of dwellings will be directly linked to the regeneration package, and as such, needs to be carefully considered alongside an extensive and iterative viability and masterplanning process. The policy should be worded flexibly to reflect this.

Therefore, it is requested Part C is amended to state “*the growing need for housing which caters to the needs of an ageing population should be met by smaller dwellings, as well as extra-care housing **where suitable***”.

Part D of the policy sets a range of sustainability features that new homes should incorporate. The evidence base for this plan does not include any viability evidence to support that new homes in Berinsfield could deliver these features. Viability evidence should be provided to justify their inclusion within the policy.

#### Supporting Paragraph 4.10

Paragraph 4.10 notes that “*the adopted Local Plan 2035 does not expect Berinsfield to deliver additional growth over and above what is already planned for in the strategic allocation. Therefore, the indicative housing requirement for the Plan (per the NPPF) is effectively zero, with no additional new homes beyond the 1,700 already planned for*”.

The adopted Policy STRAT10i (Land at Berinsfield Garden Village) is for ‘around 1,700’ new homes. The submitted Masterplan Framework Document notes an indicative capacity of around 1,900 new homes following the initial masterplanning exercise. Ultimately, the quantum of dwellings provided on the Land at Mount Farm site will be linked to the regeneration package, and will need to be tested through an extensive and iterative viability and masterplanning process.

As such, it is requested the final sentence is removed to ensure sufficient flexibility, in line with adopted policy: “Therefore, the indicative housing requirement for the Plan (per the NPPF) is effectively zero, with no additional new homes beyond the 1,700 already planned for”.

## **Policy BERIN4: Biodiversity**

This policy requires development proposals to achieve a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain. This is in excess of the national requirement set by the Environment Act 2021 of 10%, and in excess of adopted SODC Local Plan policy, which requires all development to provide a net gain in biodiversity where possible and at a minimum should not achieve a net loss in biodiversity. Local Plan Policy STRAT10 (Berinsfield Garden Village) sets out that that development across the whole garden village should aim to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.

The evidence base for the neighbourhood plan does not contain a viability assessment to justify a requirement that is double that of national policy. On a site specific basis, the introduction of a minimum requirement double that of national policy could unjustifiably reduce developable land in turn impacting on the viability of a development. In the case of the Land at Mount Farm, the quantum of dwellings that can be delivered on-site will be directly linked to the regeneration package. A biodiversity net gain of double the national requirement could negatively impact the regeneration package for Berinsfield.

In summary, the draft policy is not justified or consistent with national policy, and is not currently ‘sound’ in accordance with the tests at paragraph 35 of the NPPF. This could have considerable impacts on the proposed development at Land at Mount Farm, constraining the quantum of development and subsequent regeneration package. The wording should be amended as follows:

*“Where practicable, development proposals should seek to deliver a minimum biodiversity net gain of 20% **10% in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990** and measured by a recognised biodiversity accounting metric against a baseline ecological survey detailing wildlife habitats, including trees and hedgerows, and their conditions”.*

## **Policy BERIN12: Parking**

Part A of the policy notes that proposals for new residential development that gives rise to the need for additional parking will only be supported where adequate parking provision is made in line with or exceeding the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) parking standards.

Whilst the parking pressures within the existing village of Berinsfield are recognised, OCC parking standards set maximum parking standards per dwelling to be provided across different parts of the county. Whilst car free development is supported in the most accessible areas, maximum parking standards are greater for more rural locations. It is not appropriate for a neighbourhood plan to support parking which ‘exceeds’ these standards, thus directly contradicting the adopted policy position. The draft policy should be amended as follows:

*“Proposals for new residential development that gives rise to the need for additional parking will only be supported where adequate parking provision is made in line with ~~or exceeding~~ the Oxfordshire County Council parking standards”.*

## **Policy BERIN13: Health Facilities**

As per our previous submitted representations, Draft Policy BERIN13 is supported in terms of provision of new healthcare facilities within the Parish. We previously suggested that (now) Paragraph 7.2 is re-worded to recognise the opportunity for re-provision and expansion of existing healthcare facilities within the Land at Mount Farm site.

It therefore remains suggested that Paragraph 7.2 is worded as follows:

*“Retention **or re-provision** of, improvements to and expansion of ~~existing~~ healthcare facilities to serve the existing and proposed population will be supported. Loss, removal or degradation of existing healthcare facilities will be strongly resisted **unless they are re-provided.**”*

This suggested wording would allow for healthcare facilities currently located in the existing village to be re-provided on the land at Mount Farm and make existing facilities available to be re-purposed for an alternative use, should this be deemed appropriate.

## **Policy BERIN18: Sports & Recreational Facilities**

Part B of this policy sets out that proposals to replace or redevelop the Abbey Sports Centre to serve the new Garden Village will be supported, provided they include an improved swimming pool and deliver better access to a wider range of sports and leisure services.

Whilst we support the aspiration to improve the existing Abbey Sports Centre, the exact nature of any improvement works should remain flexible. This will depend on a range of factors, including engagement with the local community and Abbey Sports Centre, the community facilities provided within the Land at Mount Farm site and extent of regeneration package. The policy is currently not ‘sound’ and should be amended as follows:

*“Proposals to replace or redevelop the Abbey Sports Centre, as shown on the Policies Map, to serve the new Garden Village will be supported ~~provided they include an improved swimming pool and deliver better access to a wider range of sports and leisure services.~~”*

## **Policy BERIN19: Community & Education Facilities**

Local Plan Policy STRAT10i (Land at Berinsfield Garden Village) sets out that the proposals will be expected to deliver sufficient education capacity, which is likely to require one additional primary school on-site,

contributions to the enhancement of Abbey Woods Primary School, and contributions to secondary school provision and Special Education Needs (SEN) provided off-site.

A key element of the regeneration objectives for the proposals is to deliver improved education provision, either through improving and expanding the existing Abbey Woods Academy or relocating it to the new development site in conjunction with a new or combined school for additional educational demand that the additional residential development will bring.

Ptarmigan is fully supportive of the need to address the existing issues facing Abbey Woods Academy and will work closely with the Local Education Authority to develop a solution that achieves the objectives of all relevant stakeholders. There are several complexities associated with relocation of the existing school relating to its ownership by an independent Academy Trust and historic Ofsted ratings, which may result in relocation not being possible or permitted. Further details on this are set out within the Masterplan Framework Document which was issued to SODC and the Parish Council earlier this year.

Ptarmigan request of Draft Policy BERIN19 (Community & Education Facilities) is worded flexibly enough to ensure the issues facing Abbey Woods Academy could be addressed through a range of appropriate solutions, in line with Local Plan Policy STRAT10i. This will ensure the neighbourhood plan is legally compliant in accordance with the 'basic conditions' set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

*“Proposals for new community facilities, including primary school provision **as required**, to be delivered as part of the comprehensive masterplan for the strategic allocation STRAT10i Land at Berinsfield Garden Village should demonstrate that they:*

- i. Will meet the needs of the **be accessible to the** village population as a whole **and in combination with existing facilities, meet the needs of the village population**;*
- ii. Can be accessed by all village residents in a safe and convenient way that does not rely solely on making car journeys; and*
- iii. Will not result in two distinct parts of the village each served by its own facilities”*

## **Conclusion**

Ptarmigan recognise the importance of bringing forward the Land at Mount Farm site in a collaborative way, working closely with the existing residents of Berinsfield and ensuring the regeneration package required under Policy STRAT10i directly responds to the issues facing the current village and aspirations of the local community. We acknowledge the key role of the Neighbourhood Plan in identifying some of these community priorities.

Ptarmigans commitment to this collaborative vision is demonstrated through the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken to inform the recently submitted MFD.

We welcome the fact that a number of our previous suggestions have been incorporated following the Regulation 14 Consultation in November 2023. However, we request that further consideration is given to wording in respect of the affordable housing and community facility policies, to enable the Land at Mount Farm masterplan proposals to be positively developed to respond to the needs of the community, whilst being capable of responding to emerging evidence and technical work.

We trust the above representations are of use. We would be grateful for confirmation that these representations have been received, and that they have been registered as duly made. We trust this submission is clear and helpful but should SODC require any clarifications in relation to any element of the above and attached, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – PLANNING

CBRE Limited for and on behalf of Ptarmigan Planning 4 Ltd

## Response 5: [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-13 10:47:56

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Organisation

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Name:

Job title (if relevant):

Business Officer

Organisation (if relevant):

Historic England

Organisation representing (if relevant):

Address line 1:

4th floor

Address line 2:

Cannon Bridge House

Address line 3:

25 Dowgate Hill

Postal town:

London

Post code:

EC4R 2YA

Telephone number:

Email:

[REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

Dear South and Vale Planning Policy Team,

Please find attached herewith our letter in connection with the above.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Business Officer, London and South East Region (Oxfordshire)

Historic England, 4th floor Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

You can upload supporting evidence here:

Berinsfield NP W letter.pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

### Public hearing

6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

### Public hearing

7 Please state your specific reasons for requesting a public hearing below:

Public hearing textbox:

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:



Historic England

By e-mail to:  
planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

Our ref:  
PL00794120  
Your ref:  
Date: 06/08/2024  
Direct Dial:  
Mobile: 01225 422600

Dear South and Vale Planning Policy Team,

### **Berinsfield Submitted Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16**

Thank you for consulting Historic England about your Regulation 16 draft Neighbourhood Plan. This is the first opportunity Historic England has had to review your neighbourhood plan. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully considered at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

Neighbourhood Plans are an important opportunity for local communities to set the agenda for their places, setting out what is important and why about different aspects of their parish or other area within the neighbourhood area boundary, and providing clear policy and guidance to readers – be they interested members of the public, planners or developers – regarding how the place should develop over the course of the plan period.

We welcome the production of this neighbourhood plan and are pleased to see that the historic environment of your parish features throughout this draft.

Although your neighbourhood area does contain a number of designated heritage assets, at this point we don't consider there is a need for Historic England to be involved in the detailed development of the strategy for your area, but we offer some general advice and guidance below, which may be of assistance. The conservation officer at your local Council will be the best placed person to assist you in the development of the Plan with respect to the historic environment and can help you to consider and clearly articulate how a strategy can address the area's heritage assets.

Paragraph 190 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) sets out that Plans, including Neighbourhood Plans, should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In particular, this strategy needs to take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001  
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significance of all types of heritage asset where possible, the need for new development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and ensure that it considers opportunities to use the existing historic environment to help reinforce this character of a place.

It is important that, as a minimum, the strategy you put together for your area safeguards those elements of your neighbourhood area that contribute to the significance of those assets. This will ensure that they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area and make sure your plan is in line with the requirements of national planning policy, as found in the National Planning Policy Framework. The government's [National Planning Practice Guidance](#) on neighbourhood planning is clear that, where relevant, Neighbourhood Plans need to include enough information about local heritage to guide local authority planning decisions and to put broader strategic heritage policies from the local authority's local plan into action but at a *neighbourhood* scale. Your Neighbourhood Plan is therefore an important opportunity for a community to develop a positive strategy for the area's locally important heritage assets that aren't recognised at a national level through listing or scheduling. If appropriate this should include enough information about local non-designated heritage assets, including sites of archaeological interest, locally listed buildings, or identified areas of historic landscape character. Your plan could, for instance, include a list of locally important neighbourhood heritage assets, (e.g. historic buildings, sites, views or places of importance to the local community) setting out what factors make them special. These elements can then be afforded a level of protection from inappropriate change through an appropriately worded policy in the plan. We refer you to our guidance on local heritage listing for further information: HE Advice Note 7 - local listing: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7>

The plan could also include consideration of any Grade II listed buildings or locally designated heritage assets which are at risk or in poor condition, and which could then be the focus of specific policies aimed at facilitating their enhancement. We would refer you to our guidance on writing effective neighbourhood plan policies, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/policy-writing/>

If you have not already done so, we would recommend that you speak to the staff at local authority archaeological advisory service who look after the Historic Environment Record and give advice on archaeological matters. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also non designated locally important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may be available to view on-line via the Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)). It may also be useful to involve local voluntary groups such as a local Civic Society, local history groups, building preservation trusts, etc. in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan, particularly in the early evidence gathering stages.



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Your local authority might also be able to provide you with more general support in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan, including the provision of appropriate maps, data, and supporting documentation. There are also funding opportunities available from Locality that could allow the community to hire appropriate expertise to assist in such an undertaking. This could involve hiring a consultant to help in the production of the plan itself, or to undertake work that could form the evidence base for the plan. More information on this can be found on the My Community website here: <http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/neighbourhood-planning/>.

The Conservation Area may have an appraisal document that would ordinarily set out what the character and appearance of the area is that should be preserved or enhanced. The neighbourhood plan is an opportunity for the community to clearly set out which elements of the character and appearance of the neighbourhood area as a whole are considered important, as well as provide specific policies that protect the positive elements, and address any areas that negatively affect that character and appearance. An historic environment section of your plan could include policies to achieve this and, if your Conservation Area does not have an up to date appraisal, these policies could be underpinned by a local character study or historic area assessment. This could be included as an appendix to your plan. Historic England's guidance notes for this process can be found here: [HE Advice Note 1 - conservation area designation, appraisal and management](#), and here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-place-historic-area-assessments/>. The funding opportunities available from Locality discussed above could also assist with having this work undertaken.

The NPPF (paragraphs 124 - 127) emphasises the importance placed by the government on good design, and this section sets out that planning (including Neighbourhood Plans) should, amongst other things, be based on clear objectives and a robust evidence base that shows an understanding and evaluation of an area, in this case the Parish of Capel. The policies of neighbourhood plans should also ensure that developments in the area establish a strong sense of place and respond to local character and history by reflecting the local identity of the place – for instance through the use of appropriate materials, and attractive design.

Your neighbourhood plan is also an opportunity for the community to designate Local Green Spaces, as encouraged by national planning policy. Green spaces are often integral to the character of place for any given area, and your plan could include policies that identified any deficiencies with existing green spaces or access to them or aimed at managing development around them. Locality has produced helpful guidance on this, which is available here:

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-local-green-spaces.>

You can also use the neighbourhood plan process to identify any potential Assets of Community Value in the neighbourhood area. Assets of Community Value (ACV) can include things like local public houses, community facilities such as libraries and museums, or again green open spaces. Often these can be important elements of



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the local historic environment, and whether or not they are protected in other ways, designating them as an ACV can offer an additional level of control to the community with regard to how they are conserved. There is useful information on this process on Locality's website here: <http://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/land-and-building-assets/assets-of-community-value-right-to-bid/> .

Communities that have a neighbourhood plan in force are entitled to claim 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds raised from development in their area. The Localism Act 2011 allows this CIL money to be used for the maintenance and on-going costs associated with a range of heritage assets including, for example, transport infrastructure such as historic bridges, green and social infrastructure such as historic parks and gardens, civic spaces, and public places. As a Qualifying Body, your neighbourhood forum can either have access to this money or influence how it is spent through the neighbourhood plan process, setting out a schedule of appropriate works for the money to be spent on. Historic England strongly recommends that the community therefore identifies the ways in which CIL can be used to facilitate the conservation of the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting, and sets this out in the neighbourhood plan. More information and guidance on this is available from Locality, here: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/community-infrastructure-levy-neighbourhood-planning-toolkit/>

If you are concerned about the impact of high levels of traffic through your area, particularly in rural areas, the "Traffic in Villages" toolkit developed by Hamilton-Baillie Associates in conjunction with Dorset AONB Partnership may be a useful resource to you.

Further information and guidance on how heritage can best be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plans has been produced by Historic England, including on evidence gathering, design advice and policy writing. Our webpage contains links to a number of other documents which your forum might find useful. These can help you to identify what it is about your area which makes it distinctive, and how you might go about ensuring that the character of the area is protected or improved through appropriate policy wording and a robust evidence base. This can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>.

Historic England Advice Note 11- Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment, which is freely available to download, also provides useful links to exemplar neighbourhood plans that may provide you with inspiration and assistance for your own. This can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

The following general guidance also published by Historic England may also be useful to the plan forum in preparing the neighbourhood plan or considering how best to develop a strategy for the conservation and management of heritage assets in the area. It may also be useful to provide links to some of these documents in the plan:



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HE Advice Note 2 - making changes to heritage assets:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/making-changes-heritage-assets-advice-note-2/>

HE Good Practice Advice in Planning 3 - the setting of heritage assets:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

If you are considering including Site Allocations for housing or other land use purposes in your neighbourhood plan, we would recommend you review the following two guidance documents, which may be of use:

HE Advice Note 3 - site allocations in local plans:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans>

HE Advice Note 8 - Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

We recommend the inclusion of a glossary containing relevant historic environment terminology contained in the NPPF, in addition to details about the additional legislative and policy protections that heritage assets and the historic environment in general enjoys.

Finally, we should like to stress that this advice is based on the information provided. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed neighbourhood plan, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

██████████

██████████@HistoricEngland.org.uk  
Historic Places Advisor



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001  
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## Response 6: [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-13 10:52:57

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Organisation

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Name:  
[REDACTED]

Job title (if relevant):

Officer

Organisation (if relevant):

Natural England

Organisation representing (if relevant):

Address line 1:

County Hall

Address line 2:

Spetchley Road

Address line 3:

Postal town:

Worcester

Post code:

WR5 2NP

Telephone number:

0300 0603900

Email:

consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached.

Kind regards,

Sally Wintle

Officer

Natural England

County Hall

Spetchley Road

Worcester

WR5 2NP

Tel 0300 0603900

mail to: [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

We strongly recommend using the SSSI Impact Risk Zones (SSSI IRZs) to decide when to consult Natural England on development proposals that might affect a SSSI. The SSSI IRZs tool is quick and simple to use and gives instant planning advice as a formal consultation response in certain circumstances and can reduce unnecessary delays in the planning process.

Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](#)

For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](#)

You can upload supporting evidence here:

483246 NE Response.pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

## Public hearing

6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

## Public hearing

7 Please state your specific reasons for requesting a public hearing below:

Public hearing textbox:

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:

Date: 11 September 2024  
Our ref: 483246  
Your ref: Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan



Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ  
T 0300 060 3900

Neighbourhood Planning Team  
South Oxfordshire District Council

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 25 July 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

**Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.**

However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and to the following information.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further information on protected species and development is included in [Natural England's Standing Advice on protected species](#) .

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If an Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

██████████  
Consultations Team

## Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

### Natural environment information sources

The [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)<sup>1</sup> website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, [National Parks \(England\)](#), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available from [the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres](#).

**Priority habitats** are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here](#)<sup>2</sup>. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

**National Character Areas** (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here](#)<sup>3</sup>.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/)<sup>4</sup> website and also from the [LandIS website](http://www.landis.org.uk/)<sup>5</sup>, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

### Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#)<sup>6</sup> sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance](#)<sup>7</sup> sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

### Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

<sup>4</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>7</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

## Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)<sup>8</sup>), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)<sup>9</sup>. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

## Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)<sup>10</sup>) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)<sup>11</sup> to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

## Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 112. For more information, see [Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land](#)<sup>12</sup>.

## **Improving your natural environment**

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment and should provide net gains for biodiversity in line with the [National Planning Policy Framework](#). If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you should follow the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy and seek to ensure impacts on habitats are avoided or minimised before considering opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. You may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development and how these could contribute to biodiversity net gain and wider environmental goals.

Opportunities for environmental enhancement might include:

- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the 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.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to reduce impacts on wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.
- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.

Site allocations should be supported by a baseline assessment of biodiversity value. The statutory [Biodiversity Metric](#) may be used to understand the number of biodiversity units present on allocated sites. For small development allocations the [Small Sites Metric](#) may be used. This is a simplified version of the statutory [Biodiversity Metric](#) and is designed for use where certain criteria are met. Further information on biodiversity net gain including [planning practice guidance](#) can be found [here](#)

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision. Natural England's [Green Infrastructure Framework](#) sets out further information on green infrastructure standards and principles
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance](#)<sup>13</sup>).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks or on verges, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>



- 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).

Natural England's [Environmental Benefits from Nature tool](#) may be used to identify opportunities to enhance wider benefits from nature and to avoid and minimise any negative impacts. It is designed to work alongside the statutory [Biodiversity Metric](#) and is available as a beta test version.

## Response 7: [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-13 13:58:53

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Organisation

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Name:  
[REDACTED]

Job title (if relevant):  
Strategic Planner

Organisation (if relevant):  
Oxfordshire County Council

Organisation representing (if relevant):  
Natural England

Address line 1:  
County Hall

Address line 2:  
New Road

Address line 3:

Postal town:  
Oxford

Post code:  
OX1 1ND

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

Email:  
[REDACTED]@oxfordshire.gov.uk

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

Dear Planning Policy,

Please find attached Oxfordshire County Council's response to the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation. I'd be grateful if you could confirm receipt.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Strategic Planner  
Strategic Planning & Infrastructure | Economy & Place

E: [REDACTED]@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

T: [REDACTED]  
Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

My working days are Monday to Thursday.

You can upload supporting evidence here:

Berinsfield NDP Oxfordshire County Council Response 12.09.24.pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

### Public hearing

6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

### Public hearing

7 Please state your specific reasons for requesting a public hearing below:

Public hearing textbox:

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING  
CONSULTATION:**

**District:** South Oxfordshire

**Consultation:** Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 (Submission Document)

---

**Annexes to the report contain officer advice.**

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**Overall, View of Oxfordshire County Council**

Oxfordshire County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan and supports the Parish Council's ambition to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

**Officer's Name:** [REDACTED]

**Officer's Title:** Strategic Planner

**Date:** 12 September 2024

---

**ANNEX 1**  
**OFFICER ADVICE**

**District:** South Oxfordshire  
**Consultation:** Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 (Submission Document)  
**Team:** Strategic Planning  
**Officer's Name:** [REDACTED]  
**Officer's Title:** Strategic Planner  
**Date:** 05/09/2024

---

## **Strategic Planning Comments**

The County Council has provided comments on the drafting of the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan in November 2023. We welcome the changes made in response to our comments, however we note some matters still stand and this response should be considered in conjunction with our submission to the Regulation 14 consultation.

There are also additional comments by Transport Development Management and Place-Planning, Property and Education teams regarding this Neighbourhood Plan Submission version.

### **Policy BERIN12: Parking – Amendments Required**

Policy BERIN12: Parking should be amended so that it is in accordance with the County Council's (OCC)'s standards. New residential and non-residential development which exceeds OCC's parking standards will not be accepted. Minor changes are also sought to policies BERIN10: Traffic and BERIN11: Roman Road, to ensure the policies are suitable for all highway users.

### **Policy BERIN18: Sports & Recreational Facilities – Amendments Required**

We note that Policy BERIN18: Sports & Recreational Facilities has been formed by merging policies R1, R2, R3 and R6 of the pre-submission version of the Plan. OCC has concerns that the draft policy does not provide sufficient guidance as to evidence needed when submitting a planning application to be able to demonstrate that a development proposal meets the criteria of Policy BERIN18. It could therefore impose restrictions on the County Council, which owns the land which Abbey Sports Centre resides on, should the facilities need to be relocated in the future. Therefore, we seek amendment to the policy to avoid duplication of Policy CF4 of the adopted South Oxfordshire Local Plan and to ensure the policy meets the basic conditions.

### **Policy BERIN19: Community & Educational Facilities – Amendments Required**

To reiterate our comments made to the Regulation 14 draft plan, which still stand, we are seeking amendments to Policy BERIN19: Community & Education Facilities. The policy identifies a number of community facilities, some of which are owned by the County Council. The policy should be drafted in such a way that would not prevent any of the OCC-owned facilities from being redeveloped, expanded or relocated, should a need arise to do so in the future. It is important there is sufficient flexibility in the policy wording to not inadvertently hinder or complicate future development proposals linked to the regeneration of Berinsfield. Please see our Education and Property responses for more details on the amendments required.

### **Historic Environment – Policy Omission**

As made clear in our comments made in November 2023 the Plan does not include any consideration of the historic environment, and as previously requested, the Plan should include a heritage policy. Suggested wording can be found in the officer response in this document.

For completeness, the Minerals and Waste Policy team was consulted and had no comments to make.

**District:** South Oxfordshire

**Consultation:** Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 (Submission Document)

**Team:** TDM South / Place Planning and Coordination South

**Officer's Name:** [REDACTED]

**Officer's Title:** Assistant Transport DM Officer / Transport Planner

**Date:** 03/09/2024

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## **Transport Comments**

### **Page 21 – Policy BERIN10: Traffic**

Policy currently reads - *'All new housing development must, as appropriate and practical, provide safe pedestrian access to link up with existing or proposed footpaths or cycle routes to ensure that residents can walk or cycle safely to village facilities or beyond'*.

The policy should be amended to accommodate the addition of the phrase 'footway'. and the addition of providing safe 'cycle access' as well as pedestrian access.

With these amendments the policy should read:

*'All new housing development must, as appropriate and practical, provide safe pedestrian and cycle access to link up with existing or proposed footpaths, footways, or cycle routes to ensure that residents can walk or cycle safely to village facilities or beyond'*.

### **Page 21 – BERIN11: Roman Road**

Policy currently reads – *'Proposals to install a hard surface sustainable track along parts of or the entirety of the Roman Road bridle path from Berinsfield Garden Village to Oxford will be supported.'*

The policy should be amended to read:

*'Proposals to install an all-weather surface sustainable cycle route along parts of or the entirety of the Roman Road bridle path from Berinsfield Garden Village to Oxford will be supported.'*

### **Page 22 – Policy BERIN12: Parking**

Policy currently reads – *'A. Proposals for new residential development that gives rise to the need for additional parking will only be supported where adequate parking provision is made in line with or exceeding the Oxfordshire County Council parking standards and includes provision for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.'*

...

*C. Proposals for commercial buildings/sites should also make adequate parking provision for ample off-road parking in line with the Oxfordshire County Council parking standards'*.



New residential and non-residential development will provide both vehicle and cycle parking provision in accordance with Oxfordshire County Council standards. New residential and non-residential development which exceeds Oxfordshire County Council parking standards will not be accepted. The policy should be amended to reflect this.

The policy should be reworded to read:

*'A. Proposals for new residential development ~~that gives rise to the need for additional parking~~ will only be supported where adequate parking provision is made in line with ~~or exceeding~~ the Oxfordshire County Council parking standards and includes provision for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.*

...

*C. Proposals for commercial buildings/sites should also make adequate parking provision for ~~ample~~ off-road parking in line with the Oxfordshire County Council parking standards'.*

#### **Page 22 – Paragraph 6.6**

Currently reads - *'Future development in Berinsfield, whether residential or commercial, must provide adequate off-street parking for both residents and employees and their visitors.'*

This sentence should be amended to:

*'Future development in Berinsfield, whether residential or commercial, must provide adequate off-street parking for both residents and employees and their visitors that conforms to Oxfordshire County Council's parking standards.*

#### **Page 22 & 23 – Paragraph 6.8**

Additional wording is recommended to be added confirming new developments will be required to contribute to improving and maintaining bus services that serve Berinsfield.

**District:** South Oxfordshire

**Consultation:** Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 (Submission Document)

**Team:** Pupil Place Planning

**Officer's Name:** [REDACTED]

**Officer's Title:** Service Manager

**Date:** 30/08/2024

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## **Education Comments**

BERIN19: Community & Education Facilities states:

*'Proposals to change the use of all or part of an identified facility will be supported, provided it can be demonstrated that either the facility is surplus to requirements or that the change of use will not undermine the overall viability and importance of the facility.'*

We seek the deletion of the explicit reference to school playing fields in this policy. Should the existing school need to be relocated, this policy would prevent building on the playing fields, which would place a constraint on an OCC asset which may be needed to fund the delivery of education elsewhere.

**District:** South Oxfordshire

**Consultation:** Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 (Submission Document)

**Team:** Property

**Officer's Name:** [REDACTED]

**Officer's Title:** Operational Manager for Assets & Investment

**Date:** 28/08/2024

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## **Property Comments**

### **Policy BERIN4: Biodiversity**

OCC Property is concerned about the draft policy text relating to the biodiversity net gain considerations for the Neighbourhood Plan area which state:

*“Where practicable, development proposals should seek to deliver a minimum biodiversity net gain of 20% and measured by a recognised biodiversity accounting metric against a baseline ecological survey detailing wildlife habitats, including trees and hedgerows, and their conditions.”*

OCC Property supports the aspiration of Berinsfield Parish Council to require the delivery of a biodiversity net gain higher than 10%. Notwithstanding this, any requirement to exceed the 10% figure also requires robust evidence. The Planning Practice Guidance makes clear that:

*“Plan-makers should not seek a higher percentage than the statutory objective of 10% biodiversity net gain, either on an area-wide basis or for specific allocations for development unless justified. To justify such policies they will need to be evidenced including as to local need for a higher percentage, local opportunities for a higher percentage and any impacts on viability for development. Consideration will also need to be given to how the policy will be implemented.*

*Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 74-006-20240214”*

The evidential requirements (underlined) set a high bar and it is unclear whether that bar has been reached in the current justification set out in the Submission Version of this Neighbourhood Plan. Without supporting evidence that meets the PPG threshold noted above, the policy is likely not to meet the basic conditions.

### **Policy BERIN18: Sports & Recreational Facilities**

OCC Property notes that this draft policy has been formed by merging draft policies R1, R2, R3 and R6.

Part A of this draft policy states:

*“A. Proposals which seek to improve the buildings, facilities and associated infrastructure of existing sport and recreational sites within the parish of Berinsfield will be supported, especially where they would provide greater employment or tourism benefits and/or they would improve access to sport, recreation and or*

*exercise for all ages. Proposals to change the use of part of a sports or recreational facility will be supported, provided it can be demonstrated that the facility is surplus to requirements or that the facility can be relocated within the parish and that the change of use will not undermine the overall viability and importance of the facility.”*

OCC Property is concerned about the wording of the second part of this draft policy, as it does not provide clear guidance on what type of evidence would need to be submitted in a planning application in order to demonstrate that a development proposal meets the above criteria. Adopted Local Plan policy CF4 already provides detailed guidance on the redevelopment / loss of sport and recreation facilities, and therefore, it is unclear what value this part of the draft policy adds to the provisions already set out in adopted Local Plan policy CF4.

As OCC Property highlighted during the Regulation 14 Consultation response, the Abbey Sports Centre resides on land which is owned by OCC and if a need arises to relocate the facilities to a different location, then it would be essential to ensure that this draft policy does not impose unnecessary restrictions on OCC that go beyond adopted development plan / national planning policy.

OCC Property cannot currently support the inclusion of the second part of this draft policy in this Neighbourhood Plan, as it would simply duplicate adopted Local Plan policy CF4.

Furthermore, part B of this draft policy states:

*“B. Proposals to replace or redevelop the Abbey Sports Centre, as shown on the Policies Map, to serve the new Garden Village will be supported, provided they include an improved swimming pool and deliver better access to a wider range of sports and leisure services.”*

OCC Property would like to highlight that they cannot locate up to date evidence of a need for an improved swimming pool or delivery of better access to a wider of sports and leisure services within the Evidence Base documents that support the Submission Version of this Neighbourhood Plan. The SODC's Leisure and Sports Facility Strategy that is referenced in paragraph 7.16 is considered outdated, as it was completed in 2011.

It is important to ensure that draft policies are underpinned by robust assessments and clear up to date evidence, as otherwise they could fail to meet the basic conditions.

As a consequence, OCC Property would like to propose the amendment of part B of this draft policy as follows:

*“B. Proposals to replace or redevelop the Abbey Sports Centre, as shown on the Policies Map, to serve the new Garden Village will be supported, where they comply with the requirements set out in the relevant policies of the development plan. ~~provided they include an improved swimming pool and deliver better access to a wider range of sports and leisure services.”~~*

### **Policy BERIN19: Community & Education Facilities**

OCC Property notes that this draft policy has been formed by merging draft policies C1, C2 and CA2.

Part A of this draft policy identifies a number of community facilities, some of which are currently owned by OCC, and which are proposed to be protected in this Neighbourhood Plan. The last paragraph of this part of the draft policy states:

*“Proposals to change the use of all or part of an identified facility will be supported, provided it can be demonstrated that either the facility is surplus to requirements or that the change of use will not undermine the overall viability and importance of the facility.”*

OCC Property considers that this part of the draft policy adds no value to adopted Local Plan policy CF4 (see explanation above). OCC Property would like to reiterate the comments made in their Regulation 14 response and highlight that it is important to ensure that the policy is drafted so as not to prevent any of the OCC-owned facilities from being redeveloped, expanded or relocated, if a specific need arises in the future.

Therefore, OCC Property would like to propose the amendment of the last paragraph of part A of this draft policy as follows:

*“Proposals to change the use of all or part of an identified facility will be supported, where they comply with the requirements set out in the relevant policies of the development plan. ~~and relevant provided it can be demonstrated that either the facility is surplus to requirements or that the change of use will not undermine the overall viability and importance of the facility.~~”*

**District:** South Oxfordshire

**Consultation:** Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2035 (Submission Document)

**Team:** Archaeology

**Officer's Name:** [REDACTED]

**Officer's Title:** Team Leader - Archaeology

**Date:** 29-8-24

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## **Archaeology Comments**

The Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan does not include any consideration of the historic environment. Whilst the settlement itself was constructed after the second world war we have highlighted in our comments on the pre-submission plan, response dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, that it is located in an area of considerable archaeological interest overlying an Iron Age and Roan settlement site. Highly significant Neolithic and Bronze age monumental features and the Neolithic Berinsfield Cursus and Henge is located immediately south of the settlement.

As such this Neighbourhood Plan is not in line with the NPPF.

The NPPF states that

196. Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. (NPPF 2023, para 196)

This plan should set out a positive strategy for the enhancement and conservation of the historic environment as set out in the NPPF. We have previously recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan should include a heritage policy along the lines of:

### **Policy - Historic Environment**

The parish's designated historic heritage assets and their settings, both above and below ground including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas will be conserved and enhanced for their historic significance and their important contribution to local distinctiveness, character and sense of place.

Proposals for development that affect non-designated historic assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021).

This has however, not been included and the policy within the plan and does not appropriately deal with the historic environment as set out the NPPF.

## Response 8: [REDACTED]

Submitted to Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-09-13 15:31:38

### Next steps

#### Part A - Personal Details

1 Are you completing this form as an:

Organisation

2 Please provide your contact details below.

Title:

Name:  
[REDACTED]

Job title (if relevant):

Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood Planning)

Organisation (if relevant):

South Oxfordshire District Council

Organisation representing (if relevant):

Address line 1:

Abbey House

Address line 2:

Abbey Close

Address line 3:

Abingdon

Postal town:

Post code:

OX14 3JE

Telephone number:

01235 422600

Email:

[REDACTED]@southandvale.gov.uk

#### Part B - Your comments

3 Please provide your comments below.

Your Comments:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

SODC Response 12.09.24.pdf was uploaded

4 If appropriate, you can set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the plan able to proceed below.

What changes do you consider necessary for the plan to meet the basic conditions?:

You can upload supporting evidence here:

No file uploaded

5 Would you like to be notified of South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to 'make' (formally adopt) the plan?

[REDACTED]

### Public hearing

6 Most neighbourhood plans are examined without the need for a public hearing. If you think the neighbourhood plan requires a public hearing, you can state this below, but the examiner will make the final decision.

No, I do not request a public hearing

Public hearing

7 Please state your specific reasons for requesting a public hearing below:

Public hearing textbox:

Finally...

14 How did you find out about the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan consultation? Please tick all that apply.

Other, please specify:



Policy and Programmes

**HEAD OF SERVICE: TIM ORUYE**



Listening Learning Leading

**Contact officer:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@southandvale.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422600

11 September 2024

**Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan – Comments under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (As Amended)**

South Oxfordshire District Council has worked to support Berinsfield Parish Council in the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plan and compliments them on a thoughtful, comprehensive and well-produced plan.

In order to fulfil our duty to guide and assist, required by paragraph 3 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the council commented on the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) during the pre-submission consultation.

We are committed to helping this plan succeed. To achieve this, we offer constructive comments on issues that require further consideration. To communicate these in a simple and positive manner, we produced a table containing an identification number for each comment, a description of the relevant section/policy of the NDP, our comments and, where possible, a recommendation.

Our comments at this stage are merely a constructive contribution to the process and should not be interpreted as the Council's formal view on whether the draft plan meets the basic conditions.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood)**

Ref.	Section/Policy	Comment/Recommendation
1	General Comment	This plan has been prepared to have regard to the emerging Joint Local Plan. We therefore recommend that all references to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan within policies should be amended to 'the Development Plan' to prevent the reference becoming out of date in the future.
2	General Comment	We recommend that the quality of the images, maps and figures throughout the plan are improved as they are not as clear as they could be.
3	Page 3	In the third paragraph we recommend 'around' is added before 1700 homes to be consistent with the rest of the plan and Policy STRAT 10i in the Local Plan.
4	Page 10	We recommend deleting the line on the side of the table that was part of a track change.
5	Page 11	We recommend deleting the line on the side of the table that was part of a track change.
6	Page 12 para 4.3	We recommend the last sentence of paragraph 4.3 is not underlined.
7	Page 14 para 4.10	To address the first part of Comment 23 provided by the council's Property Team we recommend the words 'with the exception to windfall and infill' is added to paragraph 4.10 as these types of development will still contribute to growth on top of what is planned for in the strategic allocation.
8	Page 21 Policy BERIN11: Roman Road	We recommend a comma is added between 'of or' within the policy wording as the sentence currently does not make sense.
9	Page 27 para 7.16	We recommend that ' SODC's Leisure and Sports Facility Strategy- March 2011' is updated to the latest 2024 strategy.
10	Page 30	The supporting text goes into a lot of detail regarding the provision of a community hub. We are therefore of the opinion that an opportunity has been missed to help the provision of the Community Hub without a specific policy relating to it. Please see comment 22 from the Garden Village Team.
Forestry Officer comments:		
11	General comment	I am generally supportive of the neighbourhood plan, which seeks to support high quality design with an emphasis on protecting the existing landscape and encouraging ecological improvements including tree planting. I note also the aims expressed under 'Design and Landscape' that development proposals should 'protect, enhance and conserve the landscape and views' and it's 'green open spaces'. I am however, surprised to see that despite listing the concern regarding the lack of mature trees, none of

Ref.	Section/Policy	Comment/Recommendation
		the policies specifically address this by lending additional weight to the retention of existing trees via the planning process so that trees of significance are given greater opportunity to mature and meet the apparent need.
Heritage Officer comments:		
12	Page 21- Policy BERIN11	No heritage observations. It is trusted that the policy relating to the surfacing of the Roman Road BERIN11, will be reviewed by the county archaeologist.
Garden Village Team comments:		
13	General Comment	We recommend that the document should make clear that any reference to 'Garden Village' means the existing village and new expansion.
14	General Comment	We believe that reference should be made at the beginning of the document to the Garden Communities Application which stated the potential for up to 2,100 homes (on Mount Farm and in the existing village) and the principle of continuing to explore the opportunities for infill development to provide a mix of tenures and the designation of green spaces (STRAT10ii policy). This would add relevant context for the Plan.
15	General Comment	The Plan needs to mention that there is an opportunity to consider ways in which to improve and utilise low quality green space; this is not currently referenced.
16	Page 10	Under "Employment" in the 1st table (not headed or numbered), the words "and further education" could usefully be added at the end of the bullet point "To encourage and support local opportunities for skills development"
17	Page 15	In paragraph 5.1 under "ENVIRONMENT", we note there is still reference to "proposed development sites" and suggest that "sites" should be singular.

18	Page 24	Under Policy BERIN 13: Health Facilities, the Policy context would usefully benefit from the use of up to date health statistics for Berinsfield which have been compiled by SODC/OCC and to reference the Berinsfield Community Insight report which is under development. We note that our two previous
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Ref.	Section/Policy	Comment/Recommendation
		<p>comments have not been responded to in the supporting text. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the 496 people separate to those 25% of residents over the age of 60? It would be helpful to have more information and evidence here about health inequalities to support the statements (e.g., distance or other services, lack of public transport etc.);</li> <li>• It would be useful to also reference the large number of young people aged 16-24 in the village. Please see the data profile and separate note provided on the health section (also note that the health note confirms the right figures for the various statistics and health measures).</li> </ul>
19	Page 24 and 25	Policy BERIN14: Local Shops & Services could be expanded to include support for community-led food growing although this could also be referenced under Policy BERIN 16:Allotments.
20	Page 24	In Paragraph 7.2, it would be helpful to replace “village” with “parish” in the penultimate line.
21	Page 31	Under Policy BERIN20: Employment Uses, the first bullet point needs re-wording to make sense. A reference to the potential for improvement of this area (Deacons Estate) to create a more attractive gateway to Berinsfield would result in a more effective policy.
22	Page 29	<p>We note that paragraphs 7.19 – 7.27 include our proposed wording relating to the need for improved a community hub and community facilities as part of the regeneration package referred to in STRAT 10i of the Local Plan. However, Policy BERIN19:Community &amp; Education Facilities Part B does not include the suggested policy wording that we previously drafted. It is vitally important for future regeneration of the village that the Berinsfield Neighbourhood Development Plan mirrors the requirements of STRAT10i in the Local Plan 2035 in respect of delivering a necessary regeneration package and that the current draft Policy BERIN19 is reinforced in this respect. For ease of reference, our suggested policy wording was as follows:</p> <p>“Proposals for one or more new community hubs will be supported where they demonstrate they meet the needs of the existing and future residents, existing and future groups that they provide spaces for and the requirement to deliver a regeneration package for</p>

Ref.	Section/Policy	Comment/Recommendation
		<p>Berinsfield Garden Village. Proposals are expected to provide improved spaces for existing groups and spaces and facilities for newly required uses, a community café, health provision and high-quality green and open spaces that connect to wider green and travel networks as part of the Garden Village. Proposals are expected to demonstrate how they will be owned and operated within the context of a stewardship model either for the community hub itself or the community hub within the context of the wider Garden Village (subject to the overall scope of proposals)."</p>
Communities Team comments:		
23		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="660 748 1362 819">1. Please find attached the following appendices for additional information:   Appendix 1 -Berinsfield Insight Profile  Appendix 2- Community Data Profile  Appendix 3- Berinsfield Community Insight Report 2024   This is going to be approved by ICMD next week and will be published along with other Community Profiles that have been completed in Oxfordshire in areas of high deprivation and ratified by the Oxfordshire Health and Improvement Board. The NP could refer to it as an approved evidence base.</li> <li data-bbox="660 1361 1362 1464">2. A further housing needs assessment has been commissioned and the draft report should be available by mid September 2024.</li> <li data-bbox="660 1532 1362 1935">3. Sports and Recreational Facilities - The NP refers to the very old SODC Leisure and Sports Facility Strategy of 2011. The new LFAS will supersede that Strategy but includes the same basic aims to improve or relocate Abbey Sports Centre including improvements to the swimming pool. I assume we cannot amend this section until after the LFAS is approved but if it could be mentioned as an emerging document/strategy that would be helpful.</li> </ol>
Property Teams comments:		
24		Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan should be

Ref.	Section/Policy	Comment/Recommendation
		<p>consistent with planning legislation, central Government policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Development Plan which in this case includes the December 2020 adopted South Oxfordshire Local Plan (2035) (the SOLP). Taking account of legislation and policy the following changes are recommended:</p> <p>Paragraph 4.10 of the Neighbourhood Plan Paragraph 4.10 of the Neighbourhood Plan states “The adopted Local Plan 2035 does not expect Berinsfield to deliver additional growth over and above what is already planned for in the strategic allocation. Therefore, the indicative housing requirement for the Plan (per the NPPF) is effectively zero, with no additional new homes beyond the 1,700 already planned for.”</p> <p>Paragraph 4.10 should be deleted because:</p> <p>1. Housing figures in the SOLP are not a ceiling and paragraph 4.4 of the SOLP explains “the Council’s supply of housing does include a significant proportion of sites on less than 1ha, and on other smaller sites of less than 100 homes. We expect these smaller sites to deliver quicker than the larger strategic allocations. The sources of smaller housing sites are expected to be: • Windfall and infill development which is permitted across all of our settlements....”</p> <p>This expectation is reflected in criterion 3 iii) of policy H1 of the SOLP which states “Residential development on sites not allocated in the Development Plan will only be permitted where.....iii) it is development within the existing built-up areas of Towns and Larger Villages as defined in the settlement hierarchy (shown in Appendix 7); provided an important open space of public, environmental, historical or ecological value is not lost, nor an important public view harmed;” Berinsfield is defined as a “larger village” in Appendix 7 of the SOLP. Therefore, the principle of housing development within Berinsfield is acceptable in principle.</p> <p>2. Paragraph 60 of the NPPF seeks to significantly boost the supply of homes.</p>

Ref.	Section/Policy	Comment/Recommendation
		<p data-bbox="608 237 1369 1070">3. The South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have published a consultation draft Joint Local Plan (JLP). For South Oxfordshire district it proposes an annual supply of 935 dwellings for the period 2021 to 2036 falling to 605 dwellings per annum from 2036 until 2041. These figures rely on at least 2,775 dwellings being made available from windfall sites. The July 2024 consultation draft NPPF and supporting documents seek to recalculate and significantly boost housing provision across England. Central Government’s July 2024 “Outcome of the proposed revised method” tables suggest South Oxfordshire’s housing provision could rise to 1,179 dwellings per year. Consequently, the SOLP and the emerging JLP recognise that with windfalls, Berinsfield could accommodate more than the 1,700 dwellings allocated to the east of the village and there could be potential through development or redevelopment of land within Berinsfield village itself, to provide additional housing. Paragraph 4.10 is not consistent with advice in the SOLP, the emerging JLP or current and emerging central Government guidance. Paragraph 4.10 should be deleted.</p> <p data-bbox="608 1151 1369 1621">Policy BERIN10 -Traffic Policies STRAT10 criteria iv) and vi) and STRAT10i criterion vi) e of the SOLP seek high quality infrastructure to encourage attractive cycling and walking links including links between the existing village and the SOLP allocated site to the east. To be compliant with policies STRAT10 and STRAT10i, policy BERIN10 should be strengthened to ensure all development not just housing, provides or contributes to improved cycling and walking opportunities. It is recommended that policy BERIN10 is revised as follows with the <u>strikeout and underlining marking recommended revisions</u>:</p> <p data-bbox="608 1666 1369 1951">“All new <del>housing</del> developments must, as appropriate and practical, <u>provide attractive, high quality and safe cycling and pedestrian access to link up with existing or proposed footpaths or cycle routes including providing new pedestrian and cycle path links between the strategic allocated site and the existing village to ensure that residents can walk or cycle safely to village facilities or beyond.</u>”</p>

## **Appendix 1: Berinsfield Community Insight Profile**



# Berinsfield Community Insight Profile

## Summary

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# 1 Introduction

Community insight profiles are being created to ensure that we understand as fully as possible the health outcomes, and factors that influence these outcomes within wards in Oxfordshire where residents are most at risk of poor health, or experience health inequalities.

Ten wards were identified in the [Oxfordshire Director of Public Health Annual Report \(2019\)](#) as having the greatest number of small areas that were listed in the 20% most deprived in England in the Index of Multiple Deprivation update (published November 2019). Profiles for all of these areas are now published.

Further community insight profiles are now being created for areas across the county identified as falling within the 30-40% most deprived nationally according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019) and where local partners feel there would be added benefit to developing the profile. Berinsfield contains one small area that falls within this range.

Oxfordshire County Council's Public Health team is working with local partners to develop the community insight profiles, which give a detailed picture of both the health needs and the supportive resources in the community. The community profiles use local data and community feedback following an asset-based community development model (ABCD).

The aim of this profile is to:

- Understand the experiences of those living in Berinsfield in relation to health and wellbeing,
- Outline the health outcomes and the factors which can influence these health outcomes and bring this to life through the voices of the community,
- Provide information and recommendations for local organisations, stakeholders and residents working to improve health and wellbeing in this area.

**Note that this report is a summary** and highlights the key findings from two in-depth reports:

1. *Berinsfield Community Insight Project Report* by South Oxfordshire District Council,
2. *Community (data) profile of Berinsfield* compiled by the Public Health Intelligence team of Oxfordshire County Council.

This summary contains quotes from Community insight gathering, these quotes have been edited to aid readability and identifiable information has been removed to anonymise the respondent.

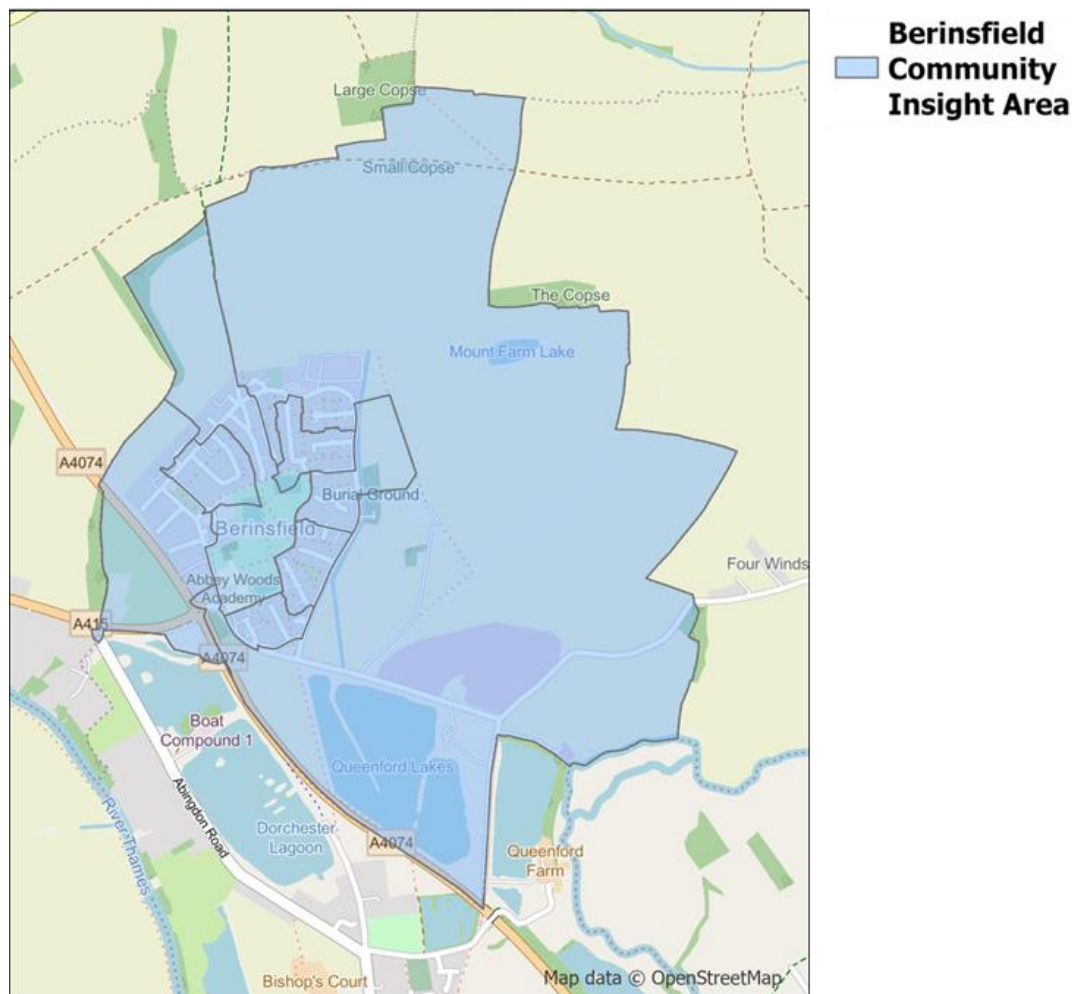
**With thanks** to South Oxfordshire District Council and especially to the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Steering group who provided a wealth of knowledge and influence at every stage of the profile's development.

## 2 Location

Berinsfield village is situated to the west of the South Oxfordshire District, 7 miles southeast of Oxford city. It is located within the Berinsfield ward which is comprised of three distinct localities Berinsfield, Dorchester-on-Thames and Drayton St. Leonard

The Berinsfield area included in the community insight profile is based on a geographical area built from smaller Output Areas (see Figure 1), focusing on the village and excluding the Dorchester-on-Thames village to the south. This area is referred to in the community insight profile as the 'Berinsfield area' and further detail on how the boundary was selected can be found in Annex 1 of the data profile report.

Figure 1 Map showing Output Areas selected for the Berinsfield Community Insight area



Mapping by Oxfordshire County Council

## 3 Summary of findings

### Population and housing

- According to the latest ONS population estimates (mid-2022) the Berinsfield Community Insight area had a resident population of 3,105 residents.
- Between the Census 2011 and Census 2021 surveys, the number of residents in Berinsfield showed a slight decline. This was different to South Oxfordshire district where there was an above-average increase in population.
- The change in Berinsfield's population by broad age between 2011 and 2021 shows that the population has aged; the number of children and working aged people has declined, while the number of older people has increased.
- The proportion of social rented housing in Berinsfield was over double the average for Oxfordshire.

### Health

- The prevalence of hypertension, obesity and depression among GP patients in Berinsfield, was each well above the Oxfordshire average.
- 3 out of 32 local health and wellbeing indicators for Berinsfield were ranked as worse than the England average:
  - Life expectancy at birth for males
  - Deaths from all causes
  - Deaths from stroke

### Employment

- A much higher percentage of people in employment in the Berinsfield Community Insight area were in the (generally lower paid) caring, leisure, process, and elementary occupations.
- A lower percentage of residents in the Berinsfield Community Insight area were retired compared to the averages for South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire.

### Poverty and deprivation

- The Berinsfield Community Insight area has a higher proportion of households classified as deprived according to the 2021 Census than the South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages.
- Compared to the average for Oxfordshire, a higher proportion of working aged residents in the Berinsfield area were claiming unemployment-related benefits.
- The Berinsfield area has a higher proportion of households estimated to be in fuel poverty compared to the Oxfordshire average.
- Rates of child poverty and of pupils eligible for free school meals in the Berinsfield area were nearly double the average for Oxfordshire.
- The rate of older people in poverty and claiming pension credit in Berinsfield is higher than the average for Oxfordshire.

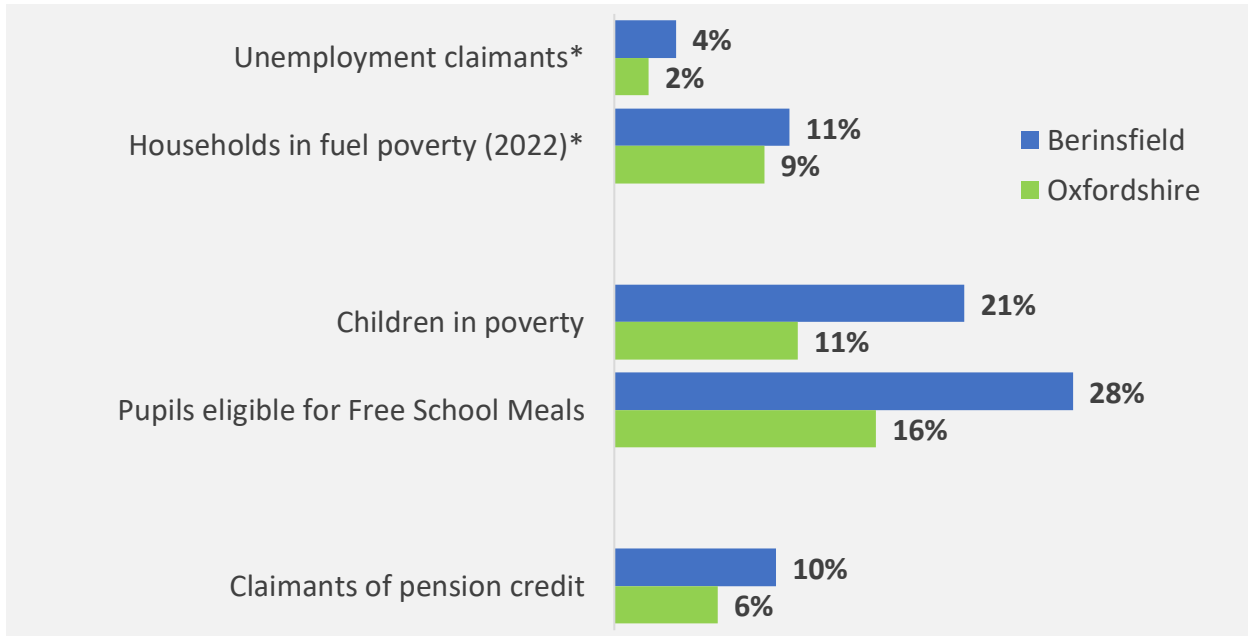
### Crime and community safety

- The overall rate of crime in the Berinsfield area was below the Oxfordshire average.

### Access to green space

- Mapping by Natural England shows that the Berinsfield area is surrounded by accessible natural green and blue spaces including woodland, water courses and other sports facilities.

Figure 2 Indicators of low income<sup>1</sup>



\*Note that the Berinsfield area being used for these indicators is the two LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B, which is different to the other indicators which use data at Output Area level.

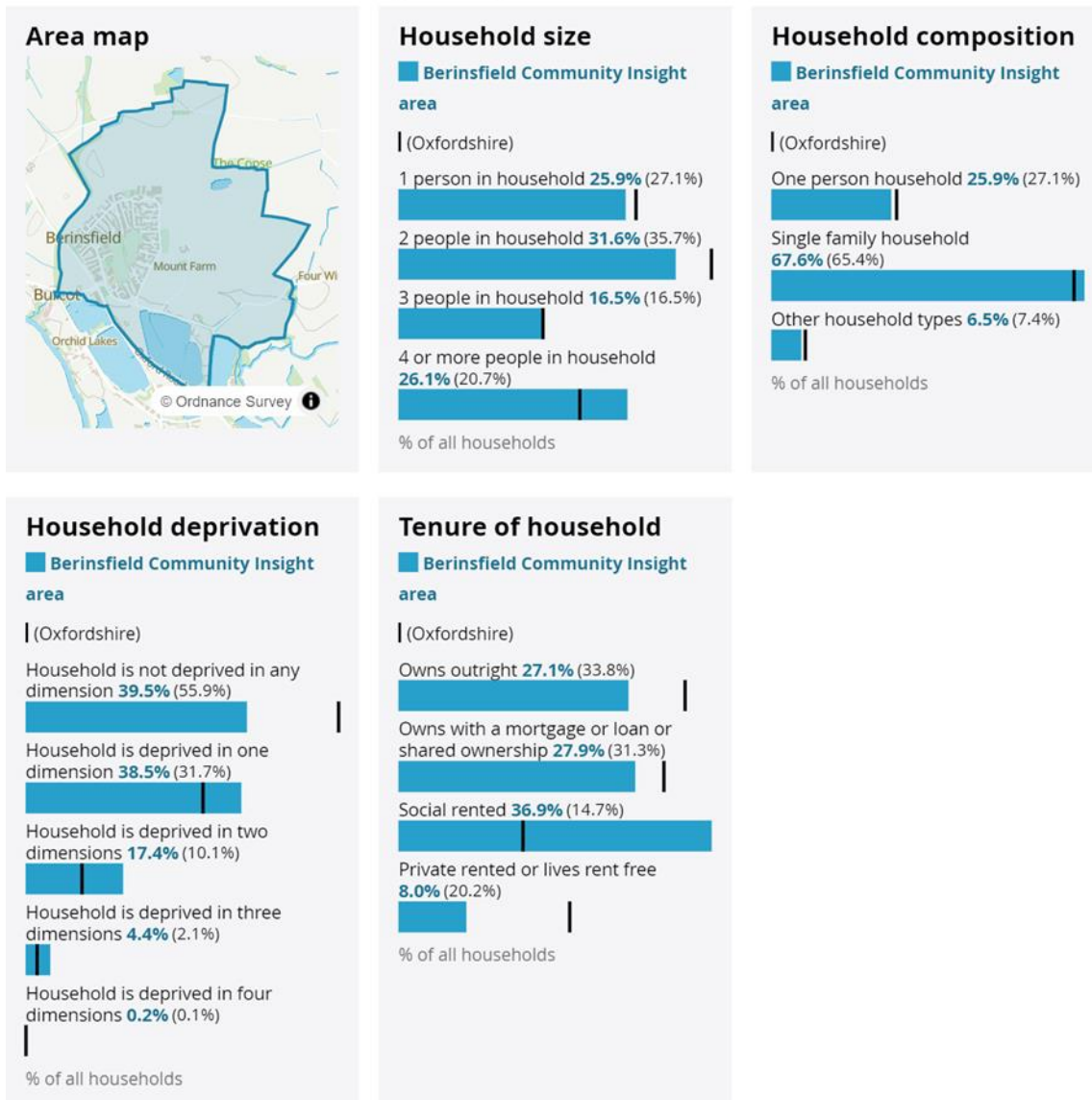
### Travel to work

- Residents of Berinsfield were more likely to travel to work by car and less likely to work from home than the averages for South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire.

<sup>1</sup> Sources: DWP claimant count May 2024 from nomisweb.co.uk, Claimant count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, based on administrative data from the benefits system; Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2022 Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, fuel poverty refers to households living in a property with fuel energy efficiency rating of band D or below as well as households which after paying their energy bill to heat their home the residual income is below the official poverty line; Child poverty from DWP statXplore, children aged 0-15, 2022/23; FSM from January 2024 pupil census, Oxfordshire County Council; Pension credit (November 2023) from DWP statXplore as of June 2024 .

Figure 3 Census 2021 profile of the Berinsfield Community Insight area

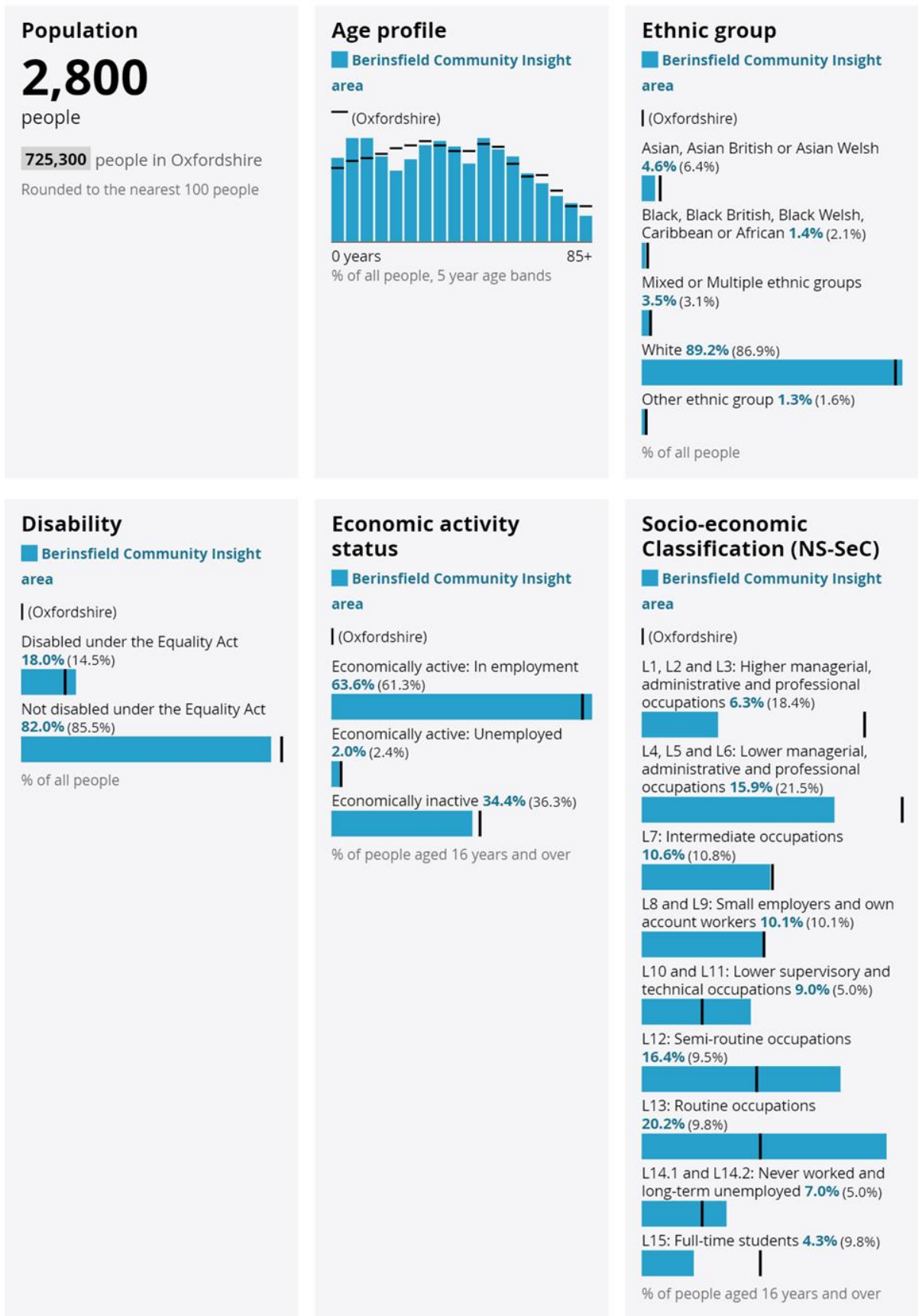
## Berinsfield Community Insight area



From [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

Figure 4 Census 2021 profile of the Berinsfield Community Insight area continued

## Berinsfield Community Insight area



From [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

## 4 Community assets and local groups

A local asset-mapping exercise to identify the community assets in Berinsfield was carried out by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

The mapping exercise concluded that Berinsfield has an abundance of facilities and physical assets that support the health and wellbeing needs of the community, these included green spaces, local shops and services, a leisure centre, community spaces and schools. There are also many groups and activities operating in Berinsfield.

The map below shows a selection of the community venues within the Berinsfield Community Insight Profile area. A full list of community assets, including local activities are set out in Appendix 1 of the *Berinsfield Community Insight Profile Report*.

Figure 5 Berinsfield Community Venues



Map created by Oxfordshire County Council using [Google My Maps](https://www.google.com/maps)



## 5 Community research

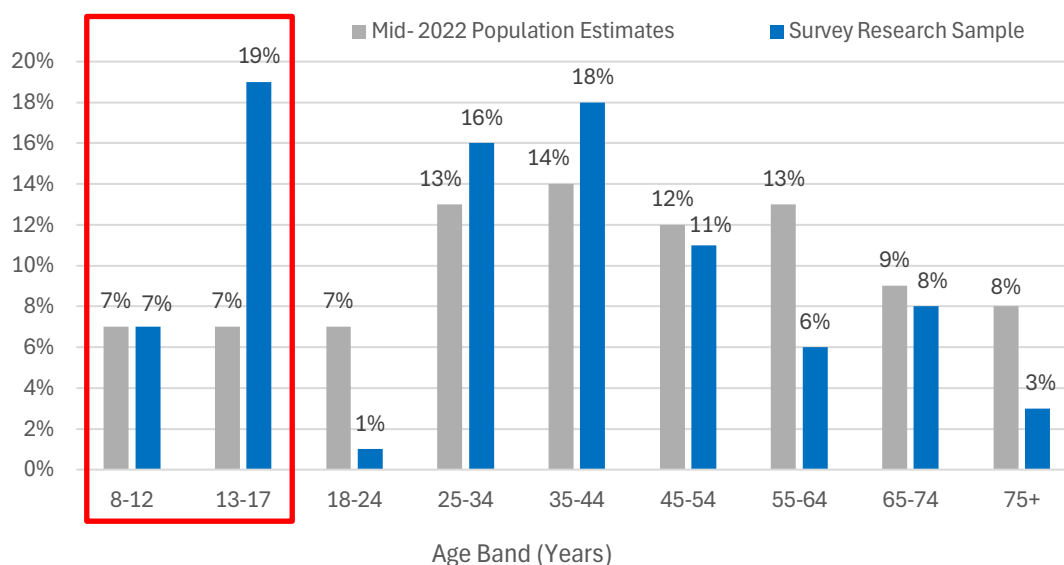
### 5.1 Research methodology and sample

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) carried out community insight activities between July and November 2023, including:

- An online and hard copy survey completed by 61 adults and 34 young people,
- 14 one-to-one interviews with residents,
- 15 one-to-one interviews with local organisations,
- 5 focus groups (3 for young people, 1 for older people and 1 intergenerational) attended by 44 people in total.

The proportion of survey respondents in the 8-12, 45-54 and 65-74 age bandings were somewhat similar to the age profile of the Berinsfield residents according to the mid-2022 population estimates. For example, 8% of survey respondents were aged 65-74 and 9% of the Berinsfield population were aged 65-74. Additionally, the survey received an above total population average response rate for 13-16 year olds.

Figure 6 Proportion of survey respondents of the Berinsfield Insight research by broad age vs split age of total population of the Berinsfield Community Insight area



Research sample = 95 total survey respondents in total (excludes interviewed and focus group participants). ONS mid-2022 population estimates; ONS mid-year population estimate for Berinsfield Community Insight area from Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk).

The highlighted age bands  are those survey respondents that were young people.

According to the Census 2021<sup>2</sup>, the Berinsfield Community Insight area has a higher proportion of residents from a mixed ethnic background compared to both South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages.

- 2% of total survey respondents were from a mixed ethnic background and Census 2021 data shows that 4% of residents of the Berinsfield Community Insight area were of a mixed ethnic background.

<sup>2</sup> ONS Census 2021 table TS021 from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

## 5.2 Living in Berinsfield

The top things that survey respondents liked about living in Berinsfield were (more than one option could be selected):

Adult respondents (base= 61)

- Green spaces (70%)
- Community facilities and activities (69%)
- Local family and friends (57%)
- Access to local services (54%)

Young people respondents (base= 34)

- Family and Friends (17%)
- Green Spaces (11%)
- Access to local services (11%)

Residents who were interviewed reported the following as strengths of the area – local choice of community facilities, services and activities and community spirit. A selection of quotes are shown below:

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*“Lots of community groups.”*

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*“The Community Spirit, especially the BCA.”*

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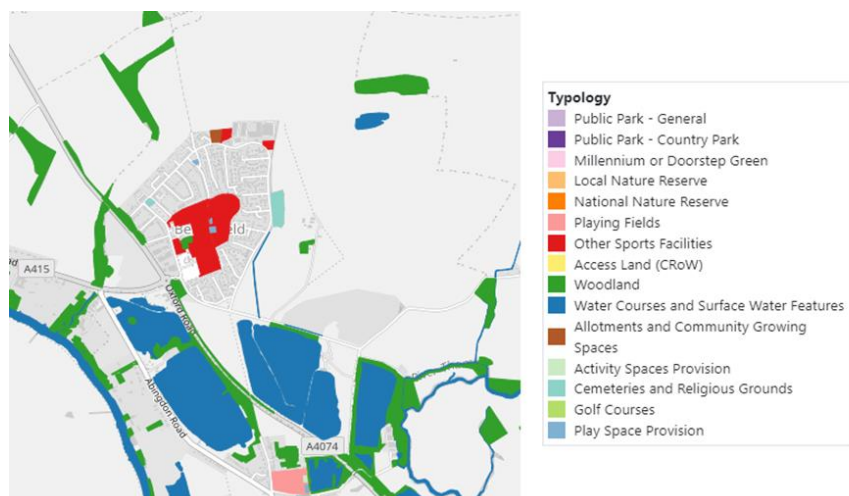
*“It’s safe, everyone knows each other, there is always someone to chat too, I’m never alone. We have been well supported in times of need”*

---

Mapping by Natural England shows that the Berinsfield Community Insight area is surrounded by accessible natural green and blue spaces including woodland, water courses and other sports facilities.

There is a variety of landowners near Berinsfield, including different levels of Local Authority (County, District and Parish councils), University of Oxford, government (e.g. Highways England), commercial and private entities.

Figure 7 Natural England mapping of green and blue infrastructure in the Berinsfield Community Insight area



Source: [Green Infrastructure Map \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)

## Getting around

When asked about which mode of transport was used most often to travel in and around Berinsfield, survey respondents reported as displayed in the table below (more than one option could be selected):

Table 1 Transport in and around Berinsfield

Transport	Adults	Young People
Walking	78%	100%
Car	65%	53%
Bicycle	13%	50%
Bus	3%	75%
E-scooter	2%	28%

## Loneliness, identity and belonging

There appears to be strong feelings amongst respondents that they feel a sense of belonging within the community, despite some reports of personal discrimination and loneliness.

- 61% of adult survey respondents (base=61) and similarly 61% of young people survey respondents (base=34) reported that they felt part of the local community
- Conversely, in interviews comments were raised regarding discrimination and young people mentioned disappointment around equality and feeling listened to
- Amongst the survey respondents, 38% of adults and 24% of young people reported feeling lonely sometimes

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*“We love the people; we really feel part of the lovely community. Our grown-up children love to visit with our grandchildren”.*

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*“Being coloured in a mostly white community has had its challenges, it’s easier now I am older and more accepted.”*

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*“People need to be listening to young people more and not disregard their views - we have some good ideas”*

---

## Crime, safety and anti-social behaviour

In interviews and survey responses, respondents mostly expressed feeling safe. The crime data for Berinsfield reflects this, showing that the total crime rate in Berinsfield was lower than the Oxfordshire average, but the rates of adults in drugs and alcohol treatment was higher than the Oxfordshire average.

- 85% of adults and 41% of young people responding to the survey reported feeling safe during the day while 52% of adults and 31% of young people reported feeling safe at night. 8% of adults and 24% of young people reported not feeling very safe at night
- 92% of adult and 83% of young people survey respondents indicated that they saw people smoking and vaping in Berinsfield
- Around half of adult respondents (53%) and 57% of young people respondents had witnessed people handling/consuming drugs

---

*"I feel safe after dark until around 8.30pm/9pm. Then I am not out anyway. I am more alert after dark and I don't use the alley ways alone night or day".*

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*"Berinsfield has changed over the years it isn't really a nice village to live in if people aren't drinking and smashing bottles they're doing vapes and leaving them on floor!! And also doing drugs".*

---

### **Education, employment and training**

Despite acknowledgement of a variety of opportunities available for education and employment, the emerging views in both interviews and focus groups, were around barriers to access.

- The majority of adult survey respondents (80%) felt they have the skills and or qualifications to find employment, whilst 35% of young people survey respondents neither disagreed or agreed they had the skills to find employment
- 41% of adult survey respondents reported that they can access local opportunities to learn new skills/qualifications
- 20% of young people respondents disagreed that they were able to access local opportunities
- In focus groups, comments were made around barriers to accessing apprenticeships, difficulties with transport from Berinsfield to access further qualification colleges and further support needed for adults with neurodiversity/learning disabilities

---

*"More training and skills opportunities need to be made available at places where people feel comfortable in going".*

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*"I'm on a reduced timetable and alternative learning on certain days elsewhere. Getting there is long. If something was on in the village, I'd rather go to that."*

---

### **5.3 Keeping healthy**

The majority of survey respondents reported being mentally and physically well, however concerns were raised by local organisations around an increase in poor mental health being experienced by service users.

- 34% of adult respondents reported that they feel physically very well and 7% reported feeling quite unwell
- Half (50%) of young people respondents considered themselves as physically quite well
- A much higher proportion of young people reported experiencing poor mental wellbeing (21%) compared to adults (2%)

---

*"There are a lot of mental health issues. – Anxiety and depression. The company signpost and have a mental health first aider on site. They refer to Riverside and CAB. There is social isolation particularly for young men with no transport."*

---

When asked what helps with staying physically and mentally well, survey respondents reported various techniques that enabled their health and wellbeing.

For adult respondents (base=61):

- 72% stated that spending time outdoors or in nature supports wellbeing

- For 70%, physical activity and movement helps them to stay physically and mentally well
- 56% reported having a daily routine and structure helps keep them healthy

For young people respondents (base=34):

- The majority of young people respondents (85%) said that a strong social support network helps them to stay physically and mentally well

---

*“My friends and family, they are a huge support structure to me.”*

---

- 71% highlighted a healthy and balanced diet enables them to keep healthy
- 65% reported participating in physical activity and movement to help them to keep healthy

### Healthy food and eating

- Over a third of adult survey respondents (72%) reported that they maintain healthy lifestyle habits around food and eating
- 75% of adult survey respondents agreed that they have access to affordable and healthy food
- A smaller proportion (24%) of young people responding to the survey felt they had access to healthy food options

---

*“I like to grow my own vegetables with mum - I am vegan and like to be aware of what I am eating”.*

---

## 5.4 Challenges to keeping healthy

### Cost of living

When asked about the obstacles faced regarding health and wellbeing, the rise in the cost of living was cited several times. The data supports this, as it reveals that child poverty rates in Berinsfield were almost twice as high as the Oxfordshire average. However, the number of people claiming benefits related to unemployment was comparable to South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages.

- Almost half of adult survey respondents (48%) felt cost and affordability is one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well
- 71% of young people reported cost and affordability as challenge to keeping healthy in survey responses
- The cost of living was frequently mentioned as a challenge to staying well during interviews with residents
- Local organisations also highlighted the impacts of the cost of living on their service user’s health and wellbeing during interviews

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*“With the cost of living, even Council-led cheaper swim activities are out of reach”.*

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*“Our shopping bills are much higher; I can’t get to the cheap shops now.”*

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*“Poverty makes everything hard. People don’t have choices – need to find a way for people to be able to make choices.”*

---

## Personal motivation

Participants mentioned in the survey and interviews, that personal motivation was a specific challenge for staying physically and mentally healthy.

- 74% of young people survey respondents felt personal motivation was one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well
- 44% of adult survey respondents reported personal motivation as a challenge to keeping healthy

---

*“Personal motivation - following COVID -19, lack of access to the internet - personal issue with connection at home, health issues - I wish I could just get better!”.*

---

## Travel and transport

Many remarks were made about bus services and transport accessibility in Berinsfield. The Census 2021 shows that households in the Berinsfield community insight area have lower car ownership and higher travel to work rates than South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages.

- Over half of young people respondents (59%) reported a lack of transport as a barrier to keeping physically and mentally well in the survey
- A smaller proportion of adult survey respondents (16%) felt a lack of transport was a challenge to keeping healthy
- In interviews, residents frequently referenced the poor bus connections and transport challenges
- Local organisations mentioned poor transport often leading to inaccessibility of services that improve physical and mental wellbeing

---

*“Having transport to activities helps even within the village. - the day centre works well because they have transport”.*

---

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*“Transport in general is the biggest challenge, for me and for the oldies like my Mum, she can’t get to the clubs and activities that are put on and she would love to. I get her to bingo on a Sunday at the BCA (Berinsfield Community Association) but I’m working during the week, so she just stays at home. Which is a shame.”*

---

## 5.5 Community suggestions for improving health and wellbeing

Through the different engagement options, participants offered various ideas for methods, projects and activities that could enhance the health and wellbeing of Berinsfield residents.

- Suggestions included:
  - Craft classes
  - Organised trips
  - Places to meet in the village
  - Safer cycling links to villages and cities
  - Informal and formal spaces for young people
  - Food cooking groups
  - Education and training opportunities
  - Health Checks
  - Creche facilities

---

*“Events like the Beri fest or other community events, like the summer carnival, a yearly beer festival for instance. A time to bring everyone together”.*

---

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*“Events are important for community spirit and bring people together it is important to have accessible and well-advertised sports provisions”.*

---

## 6 Recommendations

A range of recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of Berinsfield derived from the community insight gathering are summarised in brief below. A detailed discussion on these can be found in the recommendations section of the community insight report.

### 6.1 Communication, coordination and coproduction

- Enhance the communication and coordination amongst different agencies, organisations and residents
- Involve the community in the design and delivery of services and activities
- Build on the Community Network meeting
- Further development of the community calendar
- Exploration of reaching hard to reach groups and a wider diverse audience

### 6.2 Community activation and cohesion

- Encourage agencies with outreach services to strengthen community ties and relationships
- Maintain the positive momentum of village participation to boost collaboration and community spirit
- Support the integration of new residents while preserving existing community bonds
- Discuss and utilise the community development role to support organisations strategically

### 6.3 Loneliness, identity and belonging

- Prioritise the use of community spaces to combat loneliness and foster belonging – events that strengthen social ties
- Implement activities that connect different age groups, promoting cultural exchange and reducing isolation
- Sharing of traditions between generations to address discrimination and enhance community identity
- Steering group to explore usage of venues and potential new or existing activity locations

### 6.4 Health food and eating

- Education initiatives and practical opportunities around healthy cooking and eating
- Address the lack of fresh food options in the village
- Liaison with the Social Prescriber to ensure healthy food and eating is promoted
- Target pre-school and primary school aged children with outcomes that encourage early behaviour change

## **6.5 Education, employment and access to opportunities**

- Collaborate with local educational partners or employees to explore increasing learning opportunities
- Bring educational opportunities into the community
- Explore a greater variety of times available for learning opportunities - day, evenings, weekdays and weekends
- Build and maintain relationships with local employers
- Introduce community-based life or support skills and alternative education

## **6.6 Access to services and information**

- Enhance mechanisms for residents to easily find and access beneficial information and services
- Focus on affordability through discounts and incentives, especially during the cost-of-living crisis
- Prioritise dedicated spaces and activities for young people as well as youth workers to mitigate future health risks
- Implement low-cost, accessible drop-ins, particularly for mental health services for young people
- Explore more community-based service options to reduce stigma and improve access to support

## **6.7 Fuel poverty**

- Explore feasibility of community-led renewable energy projects in the area

## **6.8 Staying physically and mentally healthy**

- Diversify and increase access to alternative leisure than sports play
- Targeted provision to address local demand
- Discussions regarding improved support for community-based mental health initiatives
- Explore community-led support groups assisted by trained professionals

## **6.9 The built environment and infrastructure**

- Continue healthy place shaping as part of site at Mount Farm and village regeneration
- Look for early opportunities in the existing village to improve infrastructure

## **6.10 Transport and active travel**

- Pursue review of bus services in the area
- Improvements to public transport and wider active travel in connection with Mount Farm development plans
- Research and implement pilot initiatives to support transport and active travel



## **Appendix 2: Community Data Profile**

# Community data profile for Berinsfield

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Compiled by the Public Health Intelligence Team at Oxfordshire County Council

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- Between the Census 2011 and Census 2021 surveys, the number of residents in Berinsfield showed a slight decline. This was different to South Oxfordshire district where there was an above-average increase in population.
- The change in Berinsfield's population by broad age between 2011 and 2021 shows that the population has aged; the number of children and working aged people has declined, while the number of older people has increased.
- The proportion of social rented housing in Berinsfield was over double the average for Oxfordshire.

## Health

- The prevalence of hypertension, obesity and depression among GP patients in Berinsfield, was each well above the Oxfordshire average.
- 3 out of 32 local health and wellbeing indicators for Berinsfield were ranked as worse than England average:
  - Life expectancy at birth for males
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## Employment

- A much higher percentage of people in employment in the Berinsfield Community Insight area were in the (generally lower paid) caring, leisure, process, and elementary occupations.
- A lower percentage of residents in the Berinsfield Community Insight area were retired compared to the averages for South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire.

## Poverty and deprivation

- The Berinsfield Community Insight area has a higher proportion of households classified as deprived according to the 2021 Census than the South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages.
- Compared to the average for Oxfordshire, a higher proportion of working aged residents in the Berinsfield area were claiming unemployment-related benefits.
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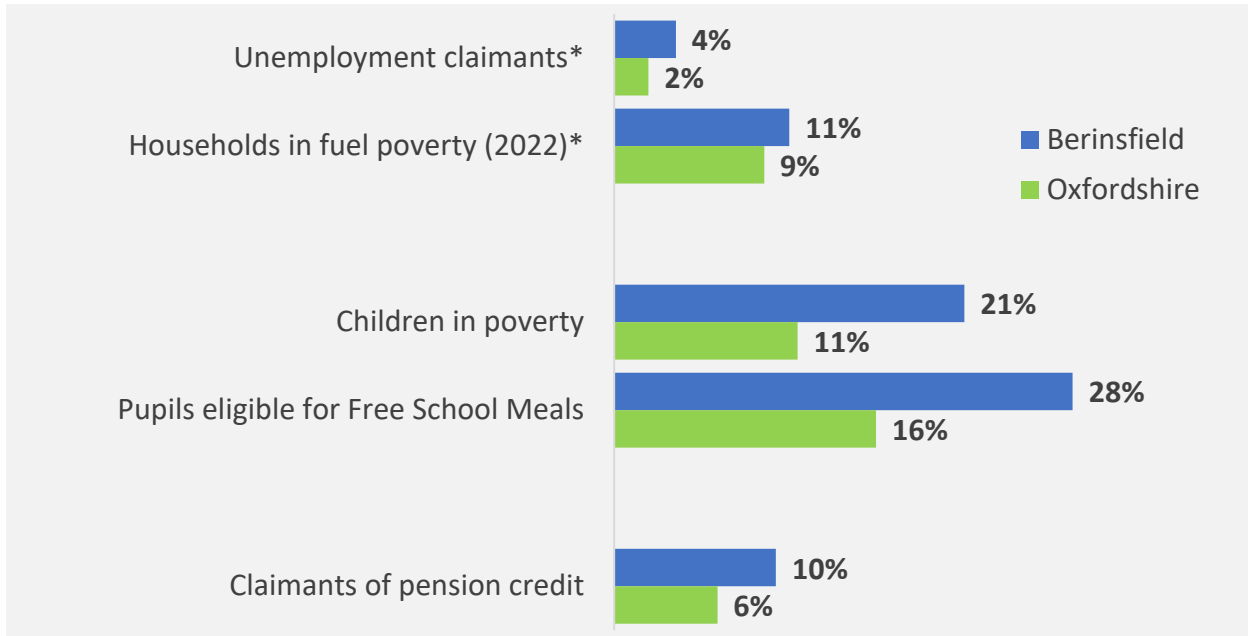
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- The overall rate of crime in the Berinsfield area was below the Oxfordshire average.

## Access to green space

- Mapping by Natural England shows that the Berinsfield area is surrounded by accessible natural green and blue spaces including woodland, water courses and other sports facilities.

Figure 1 Indicators of low income<sup>1</sup>



\*Note that the Berinsfield area being used for these indicators is the two LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B, which is different to the other indicators which use data at Output Area level.

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- Residents of Berinsfield were more likely to travel to work by car and less likely to work from home than the averages for South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire.

<sup>1</sup> Sources: DWP claimant count May 2024 from nomisweb.co.uk, Claimant count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, based on administrative data from the benefits system; Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2022 Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, fuel poverty refers to households living in a property with fuel energy efficiency rating of band D or below as well as households which after paying their energy bill to heat their home the residual income is below the official poverty line; Child poverty from DWP statXplore, children aged 0-15, 2022/23; FSM from January 2024 pupil census, Oxfordshire County Council; Pension credit (November 2023) from DWP statXplore as of June 2024 .

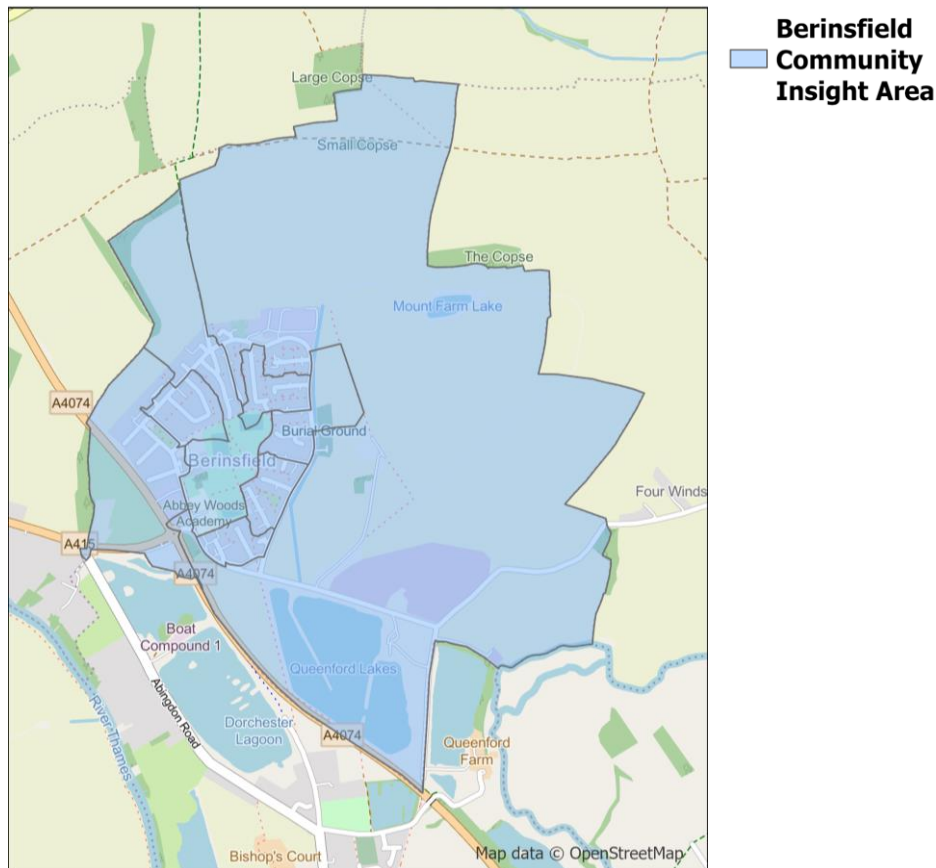
## 2 Introduction

This profile provides an overview of facts and figures about the Berinsfield area.

Berinsfield village is situated to the west of the South Oxfordshire District, 7 miles southeast of Oxford city. It is located within the Berinsfield ward which is comprised of three distinct localities Berinsfield, Dorchester-on-Thames and Drayton St. Leonard.

The Berinsfield area included in this profile is based on a geographical area built from smaller Output Areas (see Figure 2 and Figure 6), focusing on the village and excluding the Dorchester-on-Thames village to the south. Going forward this area will be referred to in this profile as the Berinsfield Community Insight area. Please see the [Annex](#) for further detail on why this boundary was chosen.

Figure 2 Map showing Output Areas selected for the Berinsfield Community Insight area



Mapping by Oxfordshire County Council

Data for the Berinsfield Community Insight area is included for:

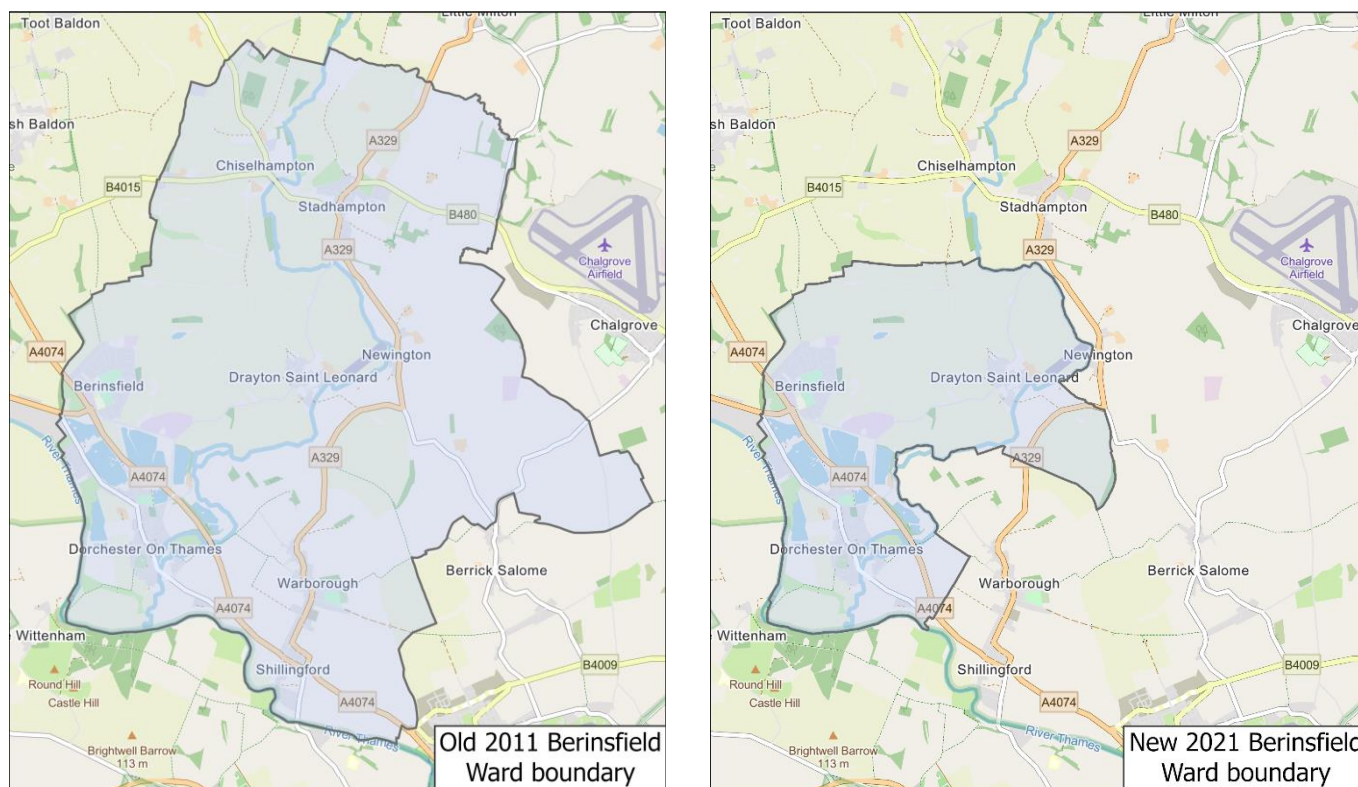
- The ward of Berinsfield;
- The Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) Berinsfield & Wittenham (South Oxfordshire 006);
- Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs): Oxford 006A and 006B which cover the Berinsfield area and part of Dorchester (see maps).
- Eight Output Areas: E00145703, E00145704, E00145705, E00145706, E00145707, E00145708, E00145709, E00145710. These cover the Berinsfield area but excludes part of Dorchester and is referred to as Berinsfield Community Insight area in this profile.

Where relevant, data for Berinsfield area is compared to South Oxfordshire District, Oxfordshire County and the England averages.

Where possible, data at Output area level has been used. However, data at Output area is not always available and therefore where relevant, data at a LSOA, Ward and MSOA geography has been used. Data presented at these larger geographies should be interpreted with slight caution as they cover an area larger than Berinsfield village and this may skew the data, hiding inequalities and challenges.

A new ward boundary for Berinsfield was introduced between 2011 and 2021 (Figure 3).

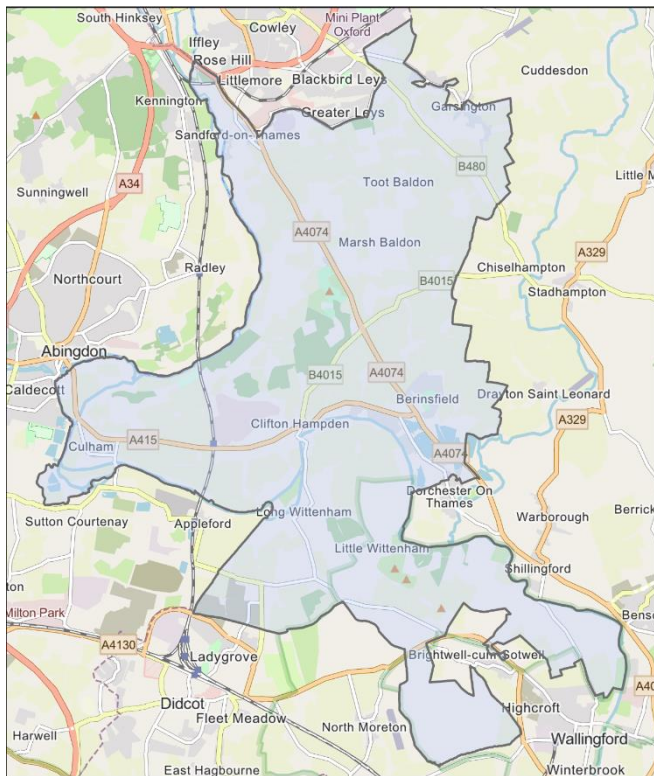
Figure 3 Maps showing Berinsfield ward boundary change



Mapping by Oxfordshire County Council

Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are made up of four or five LSOAs. They comprise between 2,000 and 6,000 households and have a resident population of between 5,000 and 15,000 persons.

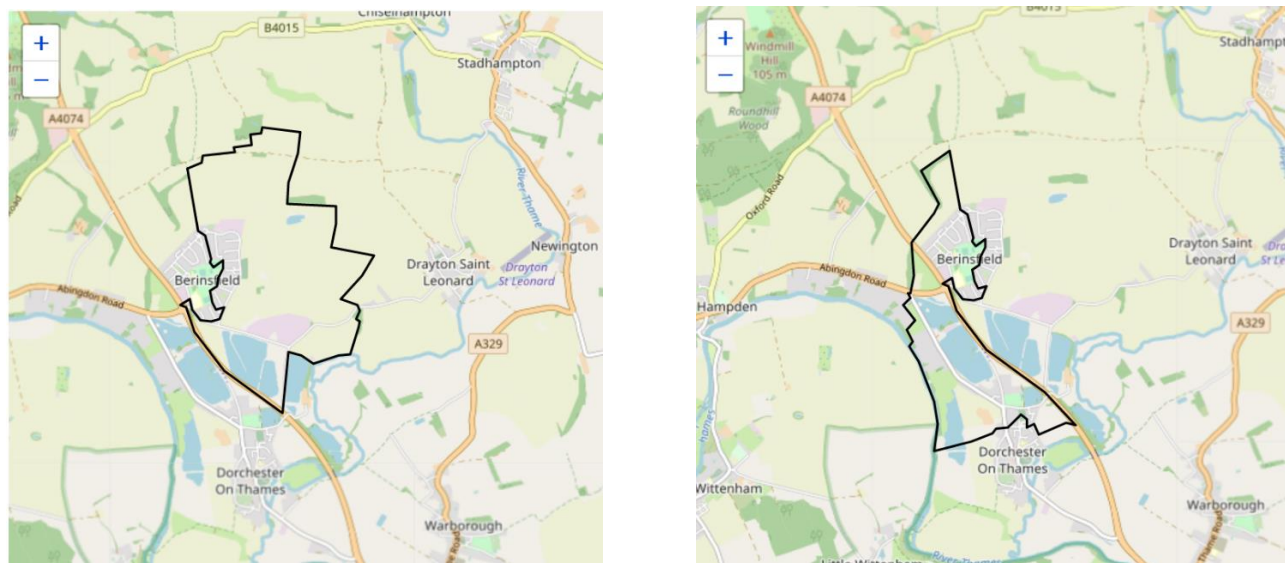
*Figure 4 Map showing Berinsfield & Wittenham MSOA (South Oxfordshire 006)*



Mapping by Oxfordshire County Council

The following maps show the two Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which cover the Berinsfield area. An LSOA has contains on average 650 households.

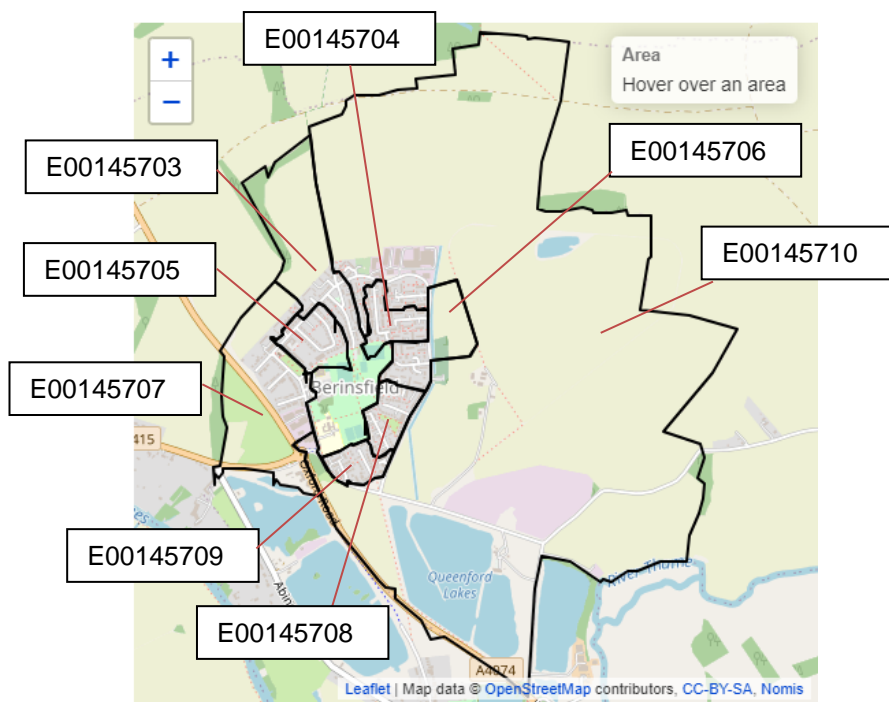
*Figure 5 Maps showing LSOAs associated with the Berinsfield Community Insight area (South Oxfordshire 006A, left and South Oxfordshire 006B, right)*



Maps from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)



Figure 6 Map of the Berinsfield Community Insight area used in this profile, showing the eight Output Areas which make up the area



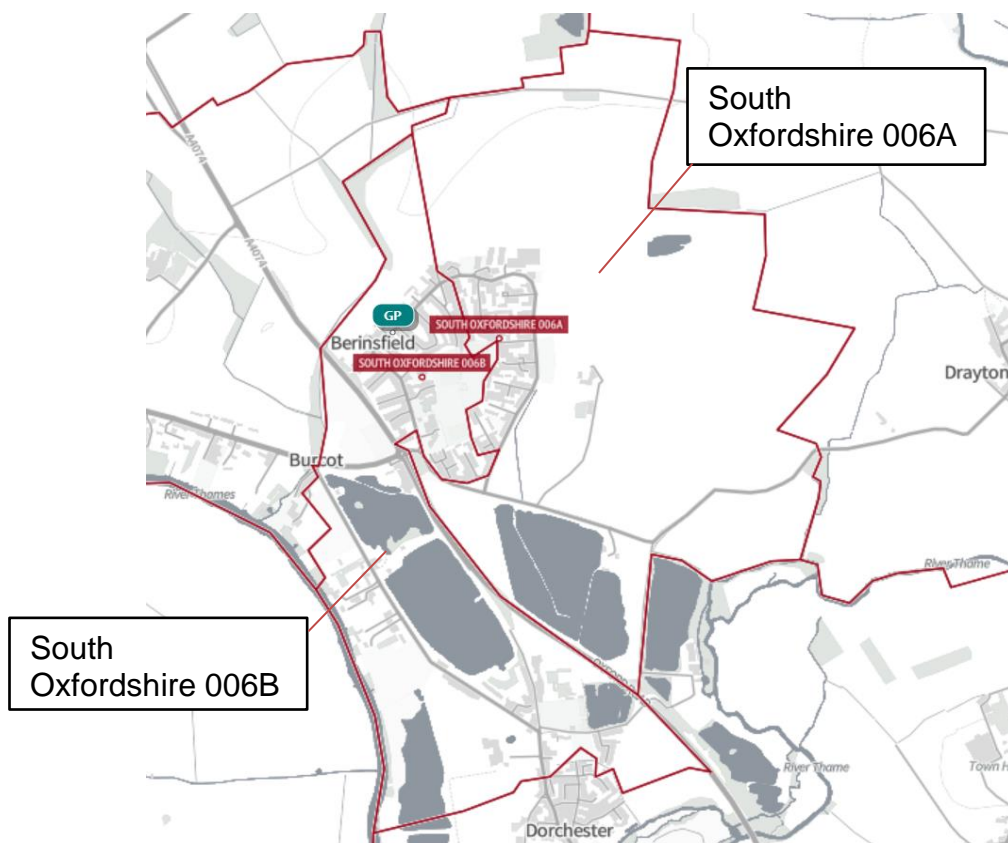
Map from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

For reference, the table below shows the total resident population of the different geographical areas covering Berinsfield.

Table 1 Comparison of total resident population of the Berinsfield area by levels of geography

Area	Source	Total count of residents
Berinsfield Community Insight Area (from Output Areas)	ONS Census 2021	2,773
Berinsfield LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B	ONS Census 2021	3,036
Berinsfield Ward boundary 2021	ONS Census 2021	4,137
Berinsfield & Wittenham Middle Layer Super Output Area	ONS Census 2021	8,033

Figure 7 Map showing GP surgeries in the Berinsfield area



Source: SHAPE tool

### 3 Census 2021 profile

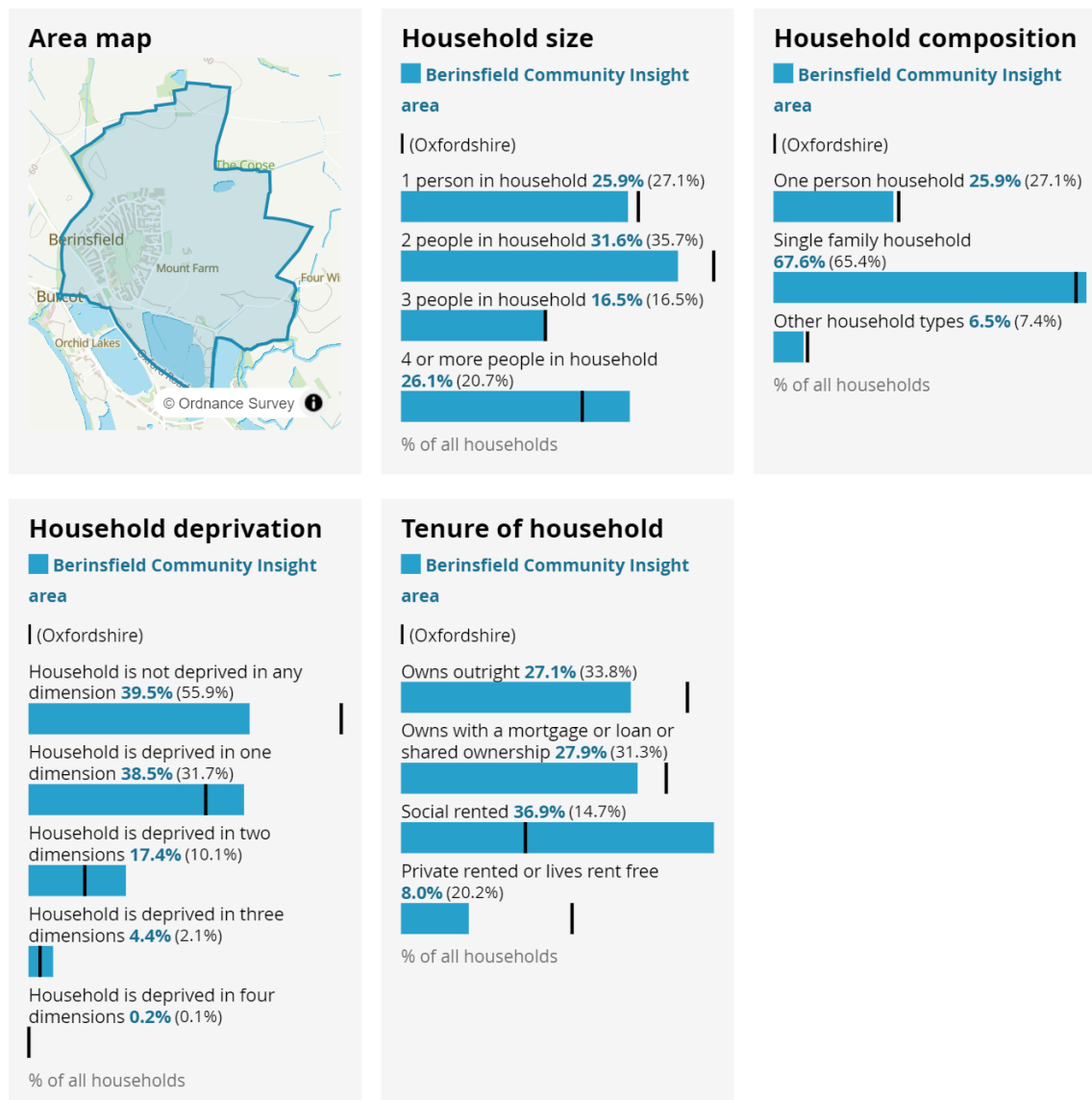
The following profile is for the Berinsfield Community Insight area, focused on the village and excluding the Dorchester-on-Thames village to the south.

It shows that, the Berinsfield Community Insight area was above the Oxfordshire average on the proportion of:

- Young residents (0 to 14 years old) (21% vs 17%);
- People from a White ethnic background (89% vs 87%) and a Mixed ethnic background (4% vs 3%);
- People living in social rented households (37% vs 15%);
- People in employment (64% vs 61%);
- People in Routine (20% vs 10%), semi-routine occupations (16% vs 10%) and people who have never worked or are long-term unemployed (7% vs 5%).

Figure 8 Census 2021 profile of the Berinsfield Community Insight area

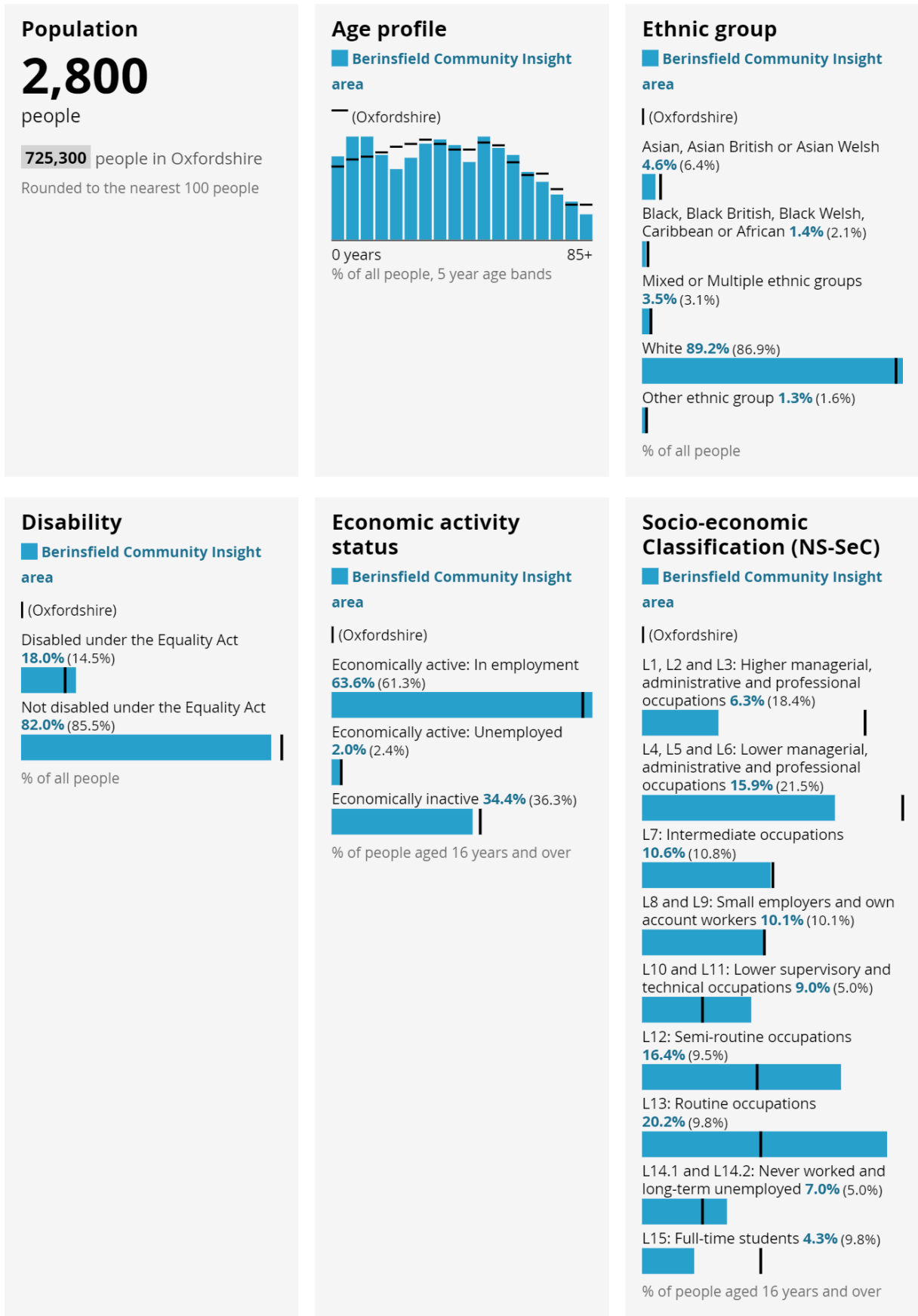
### Berinsfield Community Insight area



From [Build a custom area profile – Census 2021, ONS](#)

Figure 9 Census 2021 profile of the Berinsfield Community Insight area continued

## Berinsfield Community Insight area



From [Build a custom area profile – Census 2021, ONS](#)

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## 4 Population and housing

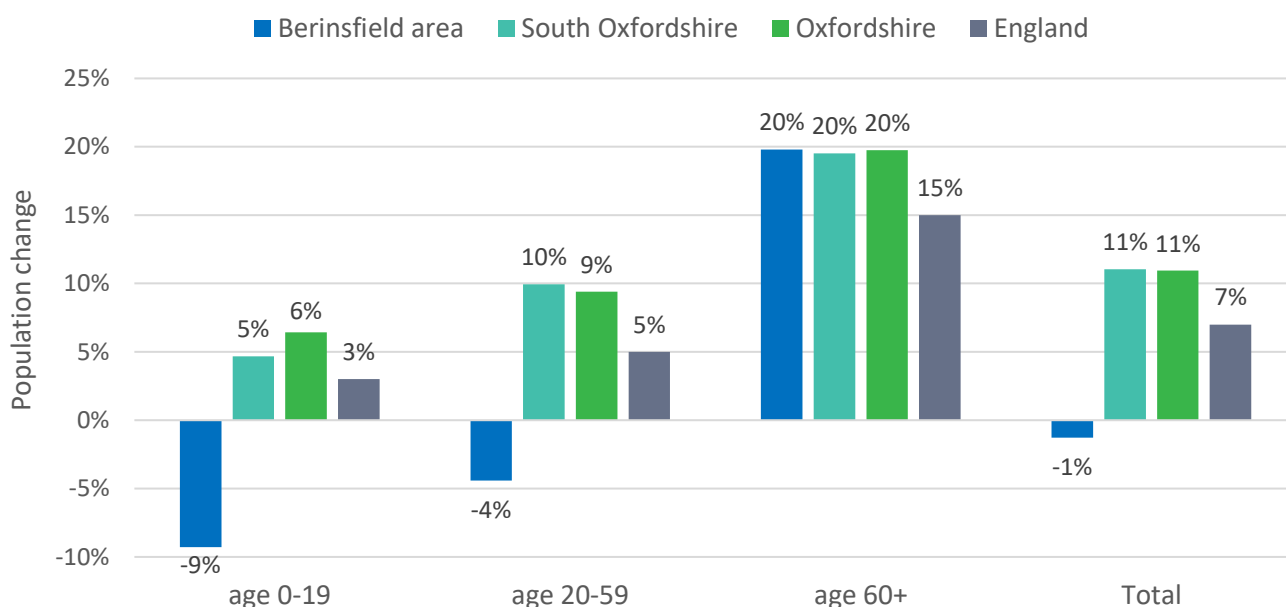
### 4.1 Population and population growth

According to the ONS Census 2021, the Berinsfield Community Insight area had a resident population of 2,773, which was just under the 2,806 residents in Census 2011, a slight decrease of 36 (-1.3%). This was different to South Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire and England, where there were increases in the resident population (11%, 11% and 7% respectively). The latest ONS mid-year population estimate for mid-2022 shows that the population of the area had increased to 3,105.

Berinsfield's population has aged, the number of children and working aged people has declined, while the number of older people has increased.

- The change in Berinsfield's population by broad age shows that the only increase was in the older population (60+) and this increase was similar to the district (20%) and county percentages (20%).

Figure 10 Population change between Census 2011 and Census 2021 for Berinsfield Community Insight Area, South Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire and England by broad age group



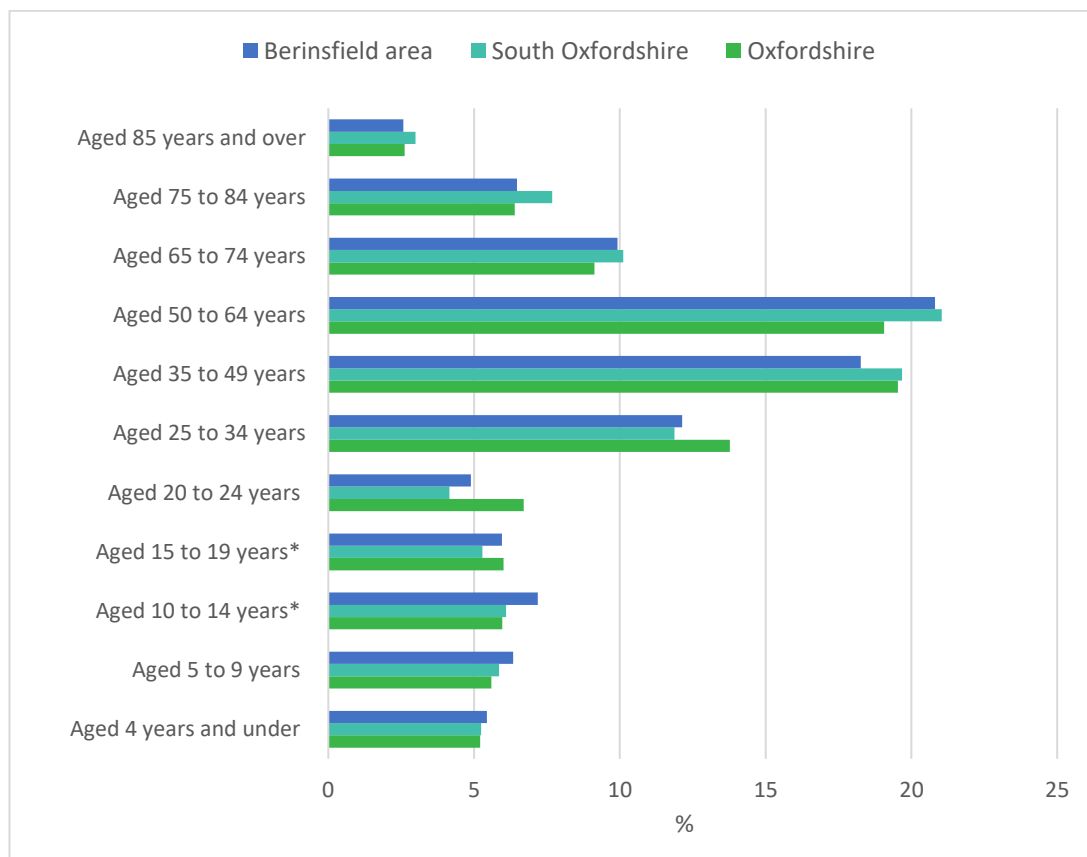
Source: ONS Census 2011 table KS102EW and Census 2021 table TS001 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

The population of Berinsfield is projected to grow due to the releasing of land for housing development, which will provide around 1,700 new homes. For more information see [SODC-LP2035-Publication-Feb-2021.pdf \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](#).

## 4.2 Population by age

As of mid-2022, the Berinsfield Community Insight area had a higher proportion of young people (aged 0 to 14 years) than the Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire averages. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) in the Berinsfield Community Insight area is lower than the South Oxfordshire average.

Figure 11 Proportion of the population in the area by broad age band, Berinsfield Community Insight area vs South Oxfordshire District and Oxfordshire County (mid-2022)



Sources: ONS mid-year population estimate from [Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

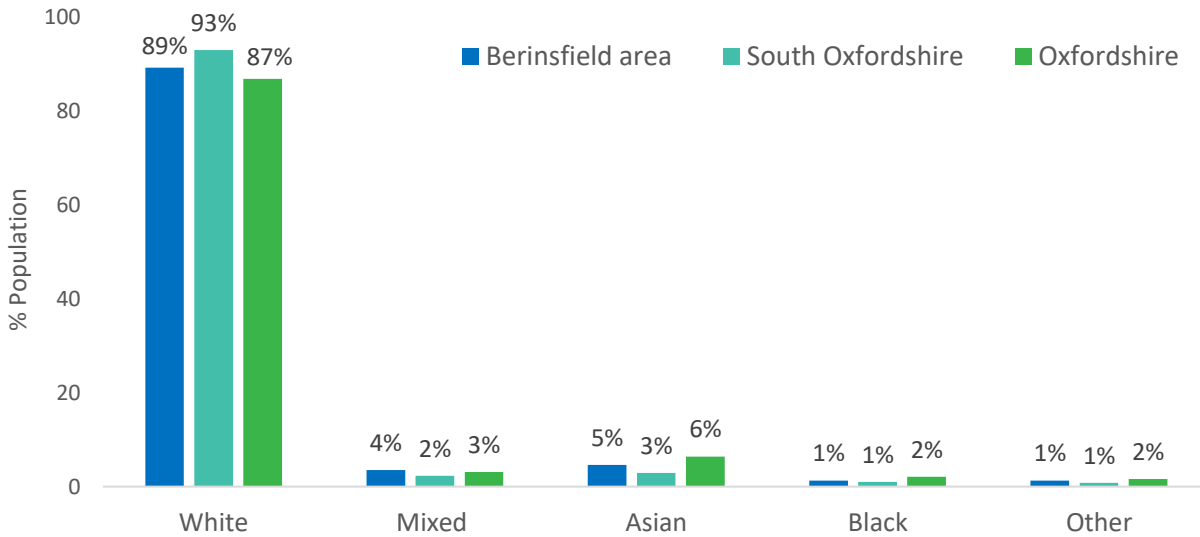
\*Note that these age categories are slightly different to ones used other profiles

### 4.3 Ethnicity

The most recent data on ethnicity is the 2021 Census. At the time of the Census, 89% of residents in the Berinsfield Community Insight area identified as White, this was below the district (93%) but above the county percentage (87%).

The percentage of the Mixed ethnic group was slightly higher in the Berinsfield area (4%) than South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire average (2% and 3% respectively).

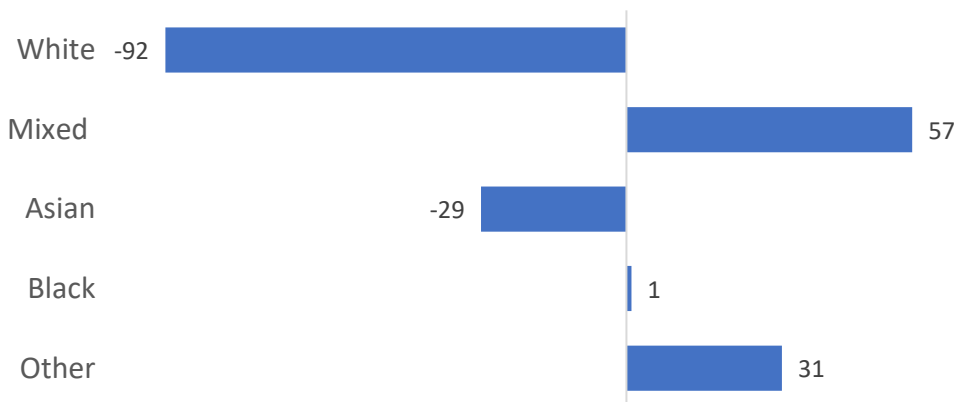
Figure 12 Proportion of resident population by ethnic group (2021)



Source: ONS Census 2021 table TS021 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Between 2011 and 2021, there was an increase in the number of residents from a Mixed and Other and ethnic background in the Berinsfield Community Insight area and a decrease in the number of residents from a White and Asian ethnic background. The percentage change for the White, Mixed, Asian, Black and Other ethnic groups was -4%, 146%, -18%, 3% and 620% respectively.

Figure 13 Change in population count in the Berinsfield Community Insight area by broad ethnic group, Census 2011 to 2021

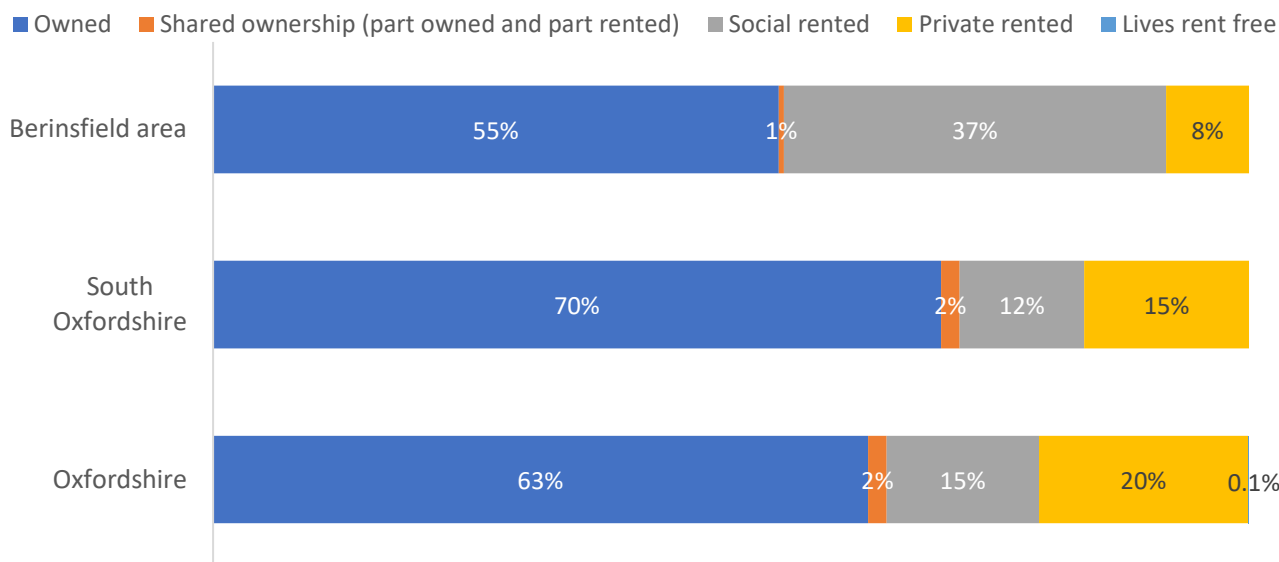


Source: ONS Census 2011 table KS201UK and 2021 table TS021 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

## 4.4 Housing

According to the Census 2021, the proportion of households in social rented accommodation in the Berinsfield Community Insight area (37%) was well above the average for South Oxfordshire District and Oxfordshire County average (12% and 15% respectively).

Figure 14 Percentage of households in the Berinsfield Community Insight area, South Oxfordshire District and Oxfordshire County by tenure



Source: ONS Census 2021 table TS054 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>



## 5 Health and Wellbeing

### 5.1 Summary of Health and wellbeing indicators for Berinsfield

The below table is showing indicators for Berinsfield & Wittenham MSOA which relate to health inequalities. The values are compared to the England and Oxfordshire average and are showing either similar to (yellow) or worse (red) than the England/Oxfordshire average.

Of the local health and wellbeing indicators, 3 out of 32 are ranked as worse than England average. Compared with other areas of Oxfordshire, Berinsfield & Wittenham has a relatively poor health profile, with 13 out of 32 indicators ranked as worse than the Oxfordshire average.

Figure 15 Table of health and wellbeing indicators for Berinsfield & Wittenham MSOA

Indicator name	Value	Compared to:	
		England average	Oxfordshire average
(D1) Deprivation score (IMD)	15.9		
(D2) Children under 16 yrs living in poverty (%) (IDACI)	13.6		
(D3) Adults over 60 yrs living in poverty (%) (IDAOP1)	7.6		
(D4) Households in Fuel Poverty (%)	9.0		
(D5) Income deprivation (%)	8.2		
(D6) Unemployment, ages 16-64 years (%)	2.6		
(CH1) Emergency hospital admissions, ages 0-4 years (crude r..	95.4		
(CH2) Emergency hospital admissions for injury, ages 0-4 year..	97.3		
(CH3) Obesity: Reception year (%)	10.3		
(CH4) Obesity: Year 6 (%)	18.4		
(CH5) Emergency hospital admissions for injury, ages 0-14 yea..	79.7		
(CH6) Emergency hospital admissions for injury, ages 15-24 ye..	148.4		
(H1) Emergency hospital admissions for self-harm (SAR)	100.0		
(H2) Hospital admissions for alcohol-attributable conditions (SA..	77.1		
(H3) Emergency hospital admissions for all causes (SAR)	99.1		
(H4) Emergency hospital admissions for COPD (SAR)	107.1		
(H5) Emergency hospital admissions for CHD (SAR)	76.1		
(H6) Emergency hospital admissions for Stroke (SAR)	90.3		
(H7) Emergency hospital admissions for heart attack (MI) (SAR)	86.8		
(H8) Emergency hospital admissions for hip fracture, over 65s (.	124.6		
(M1) Life expectancy at birth (Males)	77.4		
(M2) Life expectancy at birth (Females)	82.5		
(M3) Deaths from all causes (SMR)	126.5		
(M4) Deaths from all cancer, age under 75 years (SMR)	92.6		
(M5) Deaths from circulatory disease, age under 75 years (SM..	95.7		
(M6) Deaths from respiratory diseases (SMR)	120.8		
(M7) Deaths from stroke (SMR)	158.5		
(M8) Deaths from all causes, age under 75 years (SMR)	104.5		
(M9) Deaths from all cancer (SMR)	101.3		
(M10) Deaths from circulatory disease (SMR)	115.5		
(M11) Deaths from coronary heart disease (SMR)	94.5		
(M12) Preventable mortality (SMR)	86.1		

Source: ONS from [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#)

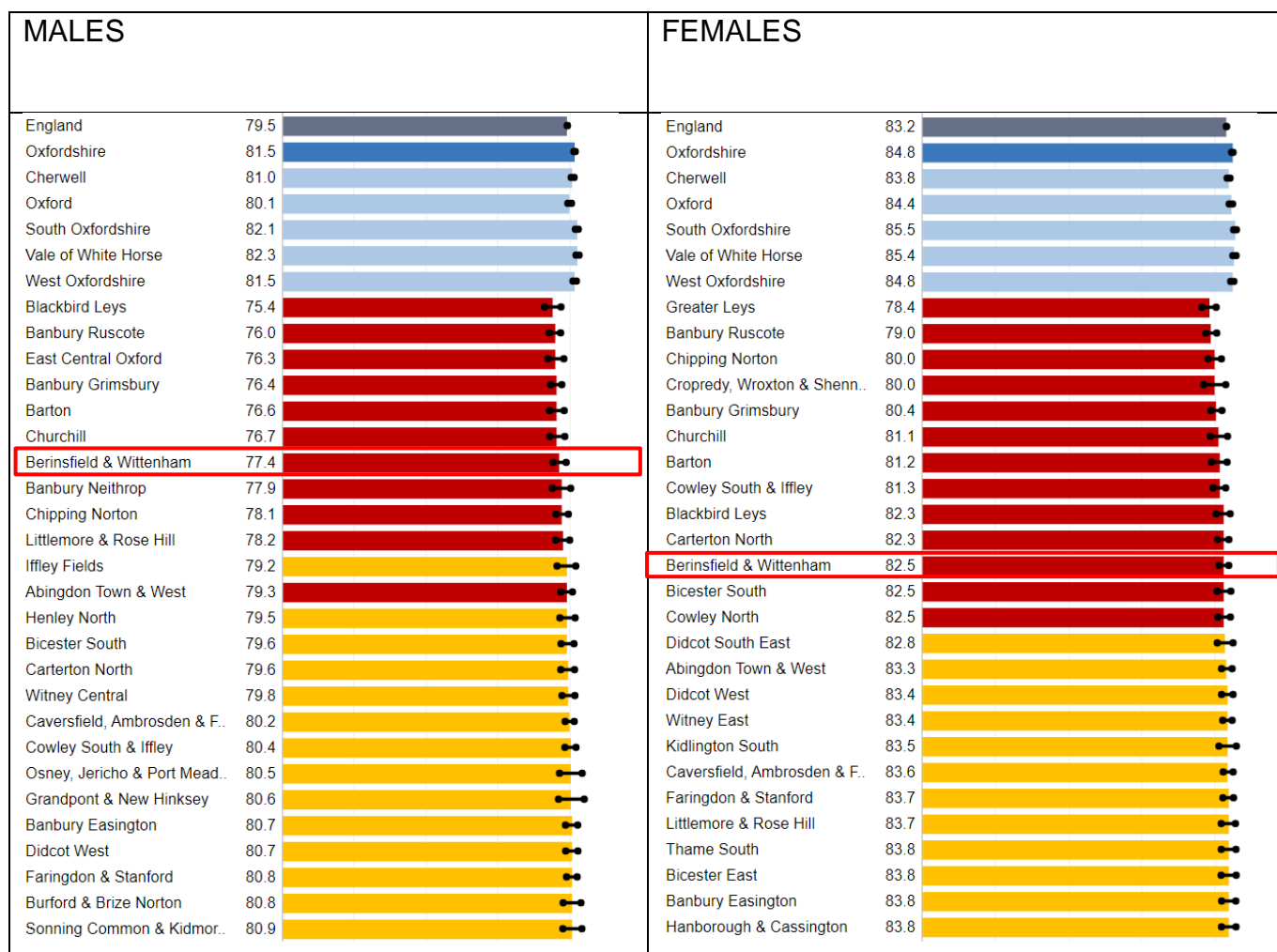
The highlighted indicators  are those in which Berinsfield has a much lower (worse) value for compared to the Oxfordshire average. These are broken down further in the following charts.

## 5.2 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth (2016-20) for Berinsfield & Wittenham MSOA (South Oxfordshire 006) was:

- 77.4 years for males. This rate is one of the lowest life expectancies for males in Oxfordshire, and is below (worse than) the England average.
- 82.4 years for females. This was lower than the average across Oxfordshire but similar to the England average.

Figure 16 Life expectancy at birth by sex (compared to Oxfordshire)



Source: NHS Digital from [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#)

### 5.3 Emergency Hospital admissions and Deaths

Berinsfield & Wittenham MSOA had the 14<sup>th</sup> highest rate of emergency hospital admissions for COPD of all 86 MSOAs in Oxfordshire and was well above the South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages.

Figure 17 Emergency hospital admissions for COPD (SAR) 2016/17-2020/21 (compared to Oxfordshire)

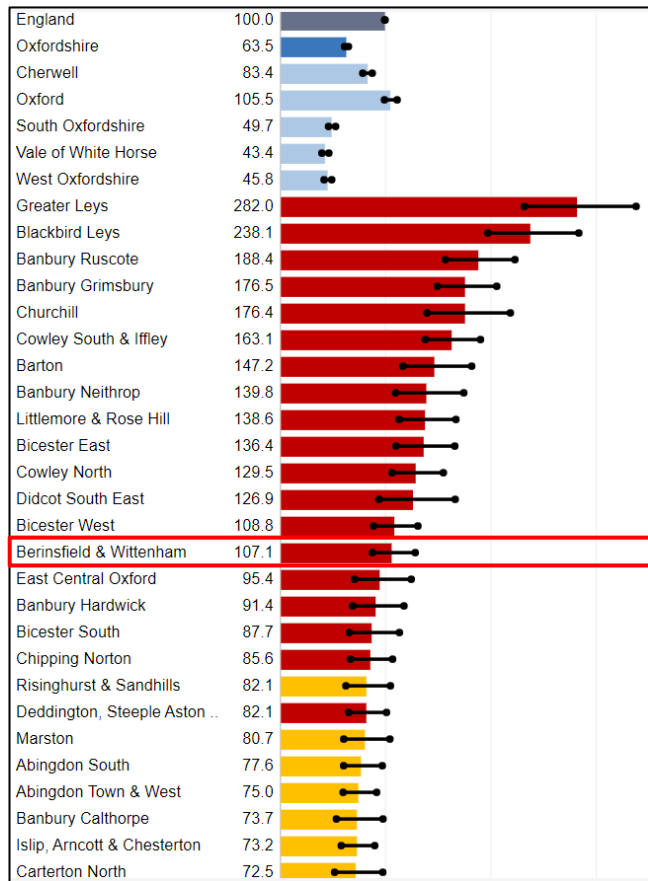
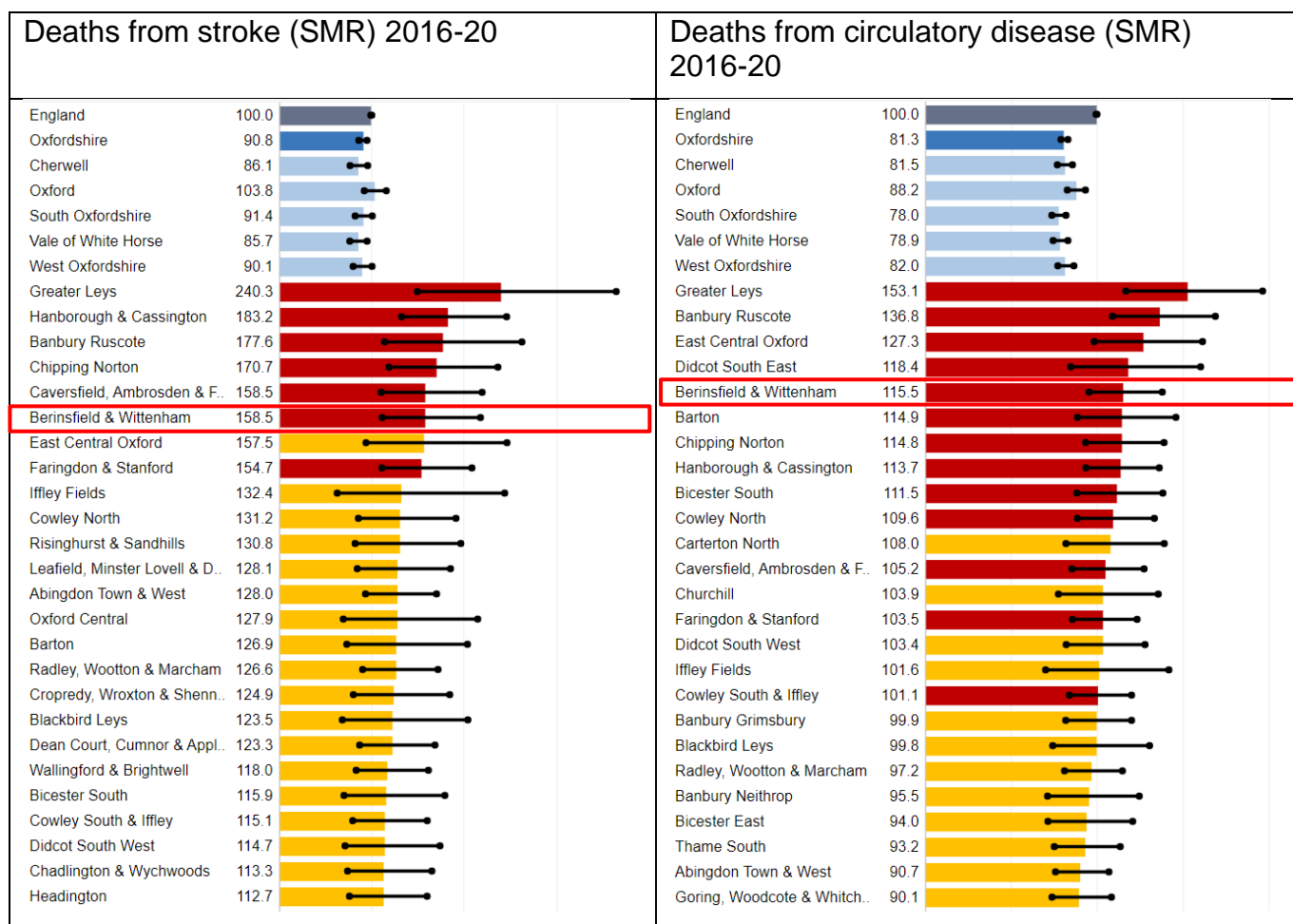


Figure 18 Deaths from stroke (SMR) and deaths from circulatory disease (SMR) 2016-20 (compared to Oxfordshire)



Source: NHS Digital from [Oxfordshire Local Area Inequalities Dashboard](#)

## 5.4 Quality and Outcomes Framework data

The following table shows measures published as part of the GP Practice Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) for 2022-23 (NHS Digital) for the GP practice in Berinsfield – Berinsfield Health Centre. Patients living in the Berinsfield area may register with any GP practice in Berinsfield or surrounding areas and it is not possible to separate health prevalence measures for specific areas using this data source.

The majority of health conditions had a higher prevalence among patients registered at Berinsfield Health Centre compared to the Oxfordshire average. The prevalence of hypertension, obesity and depression were well above Oxfordshire.

Table 2 QOF data for the General Practice surgery within the Berinsfield area and Oxfordshire 2022-23

	Berinsfield Health Centre	NHS Oxfordshire (10Q)	Difference
<b>Cardiovascular group</b>			
Atrial fibrillation, prevalence (%)	3.07	2.14	0.93
Coronary heart disease, prevalence (%)	3.13	2.30	0.83
Hypertension, prevalence (%)	17.13	12.89	4.24
Heart failure due to left ventricular systolic dysfunction, prevalence (%)	1.66	0.87	0.79
Peripheral arterial disease, prevalence (%)	0.74	0.46	0.28
Stroke and transient ischaemic attack, prevalence (%)	3.37	1.77	1.60
<b>Respiratory group</b>			
Asthma, prevalence (%)	8.42	6.12	2.30
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, prevalence (%)	2.40	1.30	1.10
<b>Lifestyle group</b>			
Obese, prevalence (%)	16.5	9.77	6.73
<b>High dependency and other long term conditions group</b>			
Cancer, prevalence (%)	4.93	3.98	0.95
Chronic kidney disease, prevalence (%)	4.47	3.12	1.35
Diabetes Mellitus, prevalence (%)	8.56	5.49	3.07
Non-diabetic hyperglycaemia, prevalence (%)	6.64	4.32	2.32
Palliative care, prevalence (%)	0.83	0.27	0.56
<b>Mental health and neurology group</b>			
Dementia, prevalence (%)	1.50	0.72	0.78
Depression, prevalence (%)	18.68	13.17	5.51
Epilepsy, prevalence (%)	0.95	0.71	0.24
Learning disability, prevalence (%)	0.90	0.41	0.49
Mental health, prevalence (%)	0.81	0.89	-0.08
<b>Musculoskeletal group</b>			
Osteoporosis, prevalence (%)	1.66	1.75	-0.09
Rheumatoid arthritis, prevalence (%)	0.73	0.67	0.06

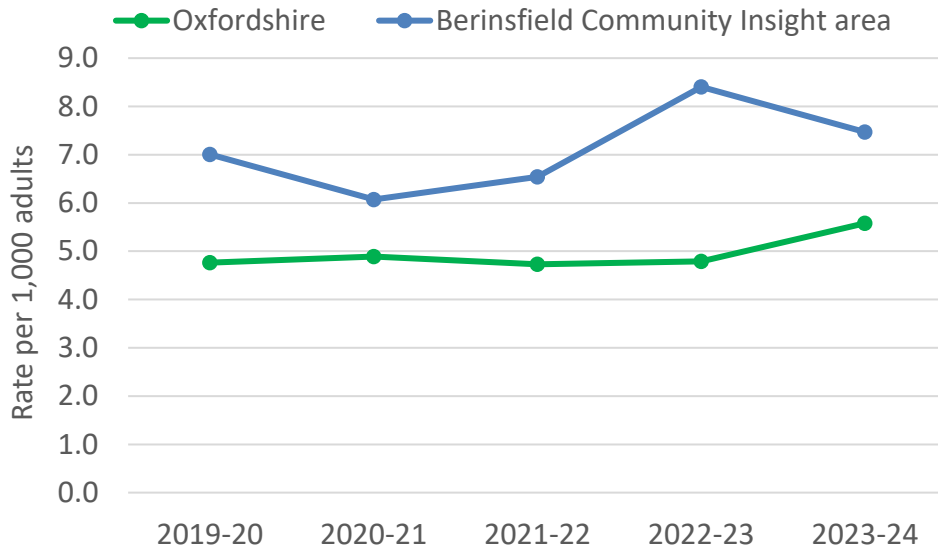
Source: NHS Digital QOF 2022-2023

## 5.5 Adults in drugs treatment

The rates for adults (18+) per 1,000 population receiving drugs or alcohol treatment in the Berinsfield Community Insight area have remained higher than the rates for Oxfordshire since March 2019.

For 2023-24 the rate was 7.5 per 1,000 compared to the Oxfordshire rate of 5.6 per 1,000.

Figure 19 Rate per 1,000 adults in structured treatment for drugs and alcohol



Source: Local drugs and alcohol services commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council; rate calculated ONS mid-2022 year population estimates

## 6 Employment

### 6.1 Economic activity

Data on economic activity is available from 2021 Census and counts people aged 16 years and over as economically active if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they were:

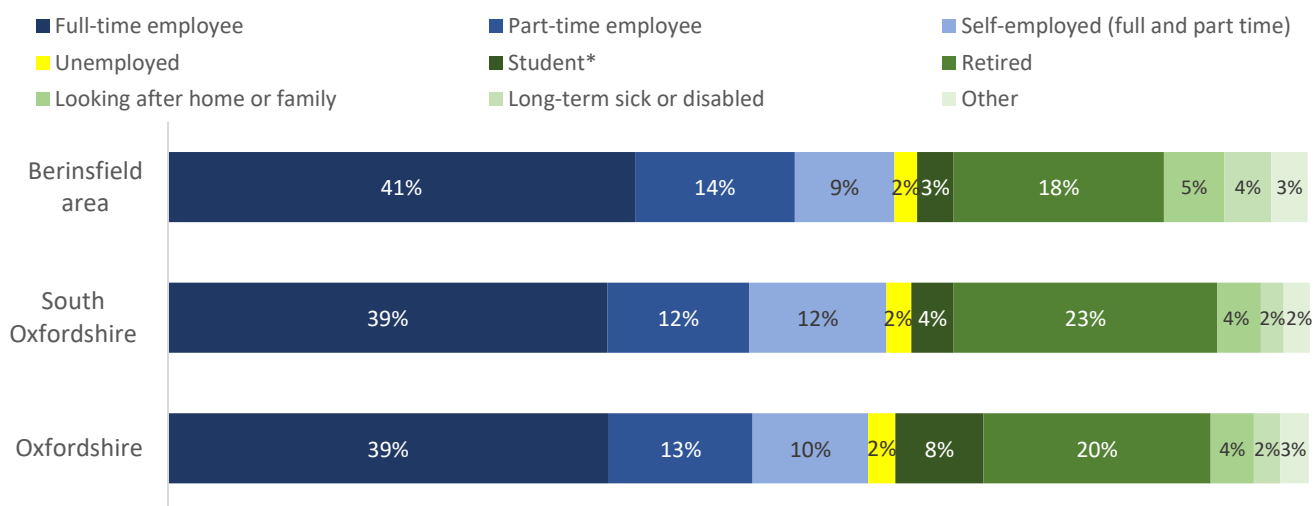
- In employment (an employee or self-employed),
- Unemployed, but looking for work and could start within two weeks
- Unemployed, but waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted

As of March 2021, the percentage of people who were economically active in the Berinsfield Community Insight area was 65.6%, this was similar to the rate for South Oxfordshire (65.1%) but slightly above Oxfordshire (63.7%).

Further breakdown of economic activity shows that, compared with South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire averages, Berinsfield had a:

- A slightly higher proportion of full-time employees;
- A lower proportion of residents self-employed compared to South Oxfordshire (9% vs 12%).
- A similar proportion unemployed;
- A lower proportion of students compared to Oxfordshire (3% vs 8%).
- A lower proportion retired (18% in Berinsfield area vs 23% in South Oxfordshire and 20% in Oxfordshire).
- A higher proportion of who were long term sick or disabled (4% in Berinsfield area vs 2% in South Oxfordshire and 2% in Oxfordshire).

Figure 20 Economic activity (Census 2021)



Source: ONS Census 2021 table TS066 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

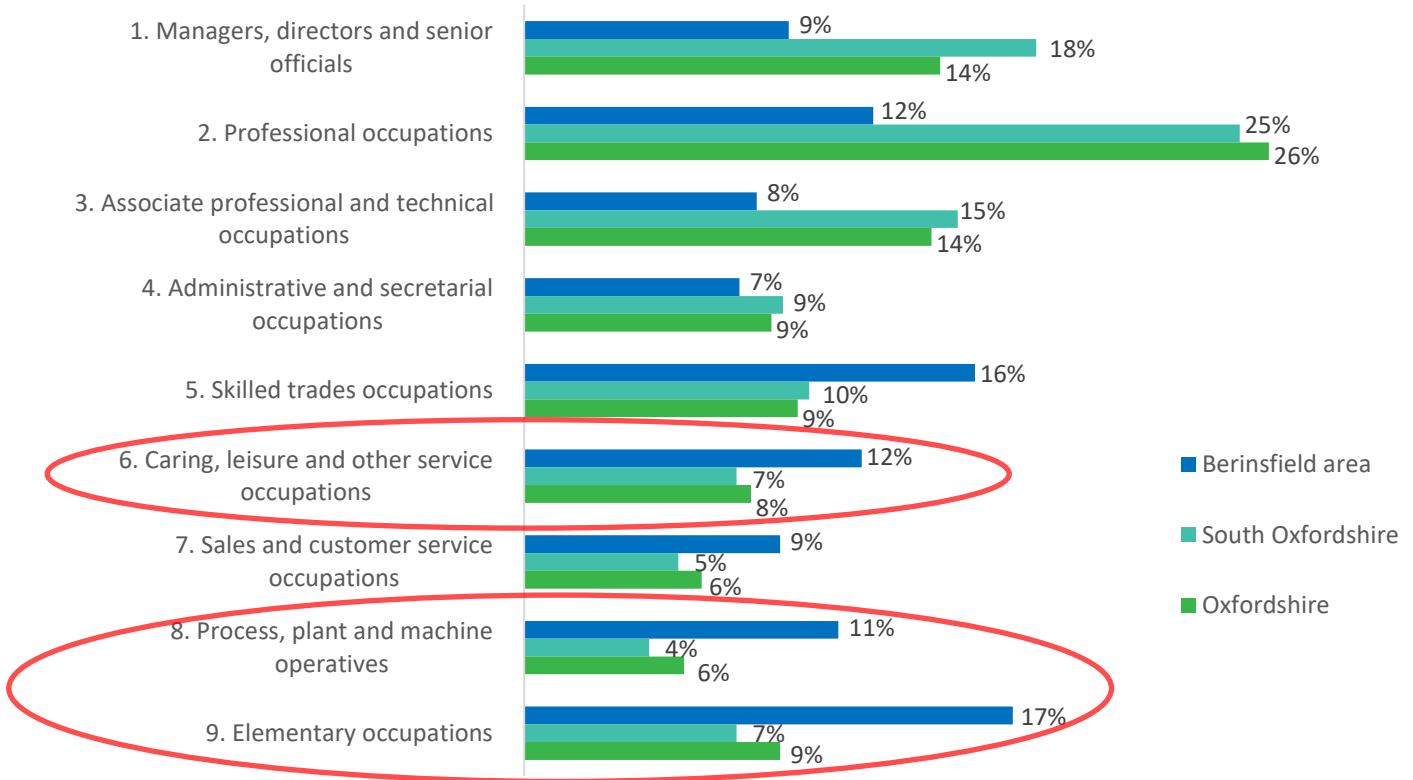
\*student includes economically inactive full time students only, some full time students are included in the economically active populations.

## 6.2 Occupation

The occupation indicator classifies what people aged 16 years and over, do as their main job. This includes job title or details of activities they do in their job and any supervisory or management responsibilities.

According to the Census, 39.2% of people in employment in the Berinsfield area were in the (generally lower paid) caring, leisure, process, and elementary occupations (shown circled in Figure 21) . This was well above averages for South Oxfordshire (18.9%) and Oxfordshire (22.1%).

Figure 21 Proportion of people aged 16+ in employment by occupation (Census 2021)



Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS063 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

## 6.3 Employment sector

The three largest employment (industry) sectors<sup>2</sup> for the Berinsfield ward (number in brackets shows the percentage of residents in employment in these sectors) were:

- Health and social work (15.9%)
- Retail (15.2%)
- Construction (9.5%)

<sup>2</sup> ONS Census 2021 table TS060 - industry

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## 6.4 Unemployment

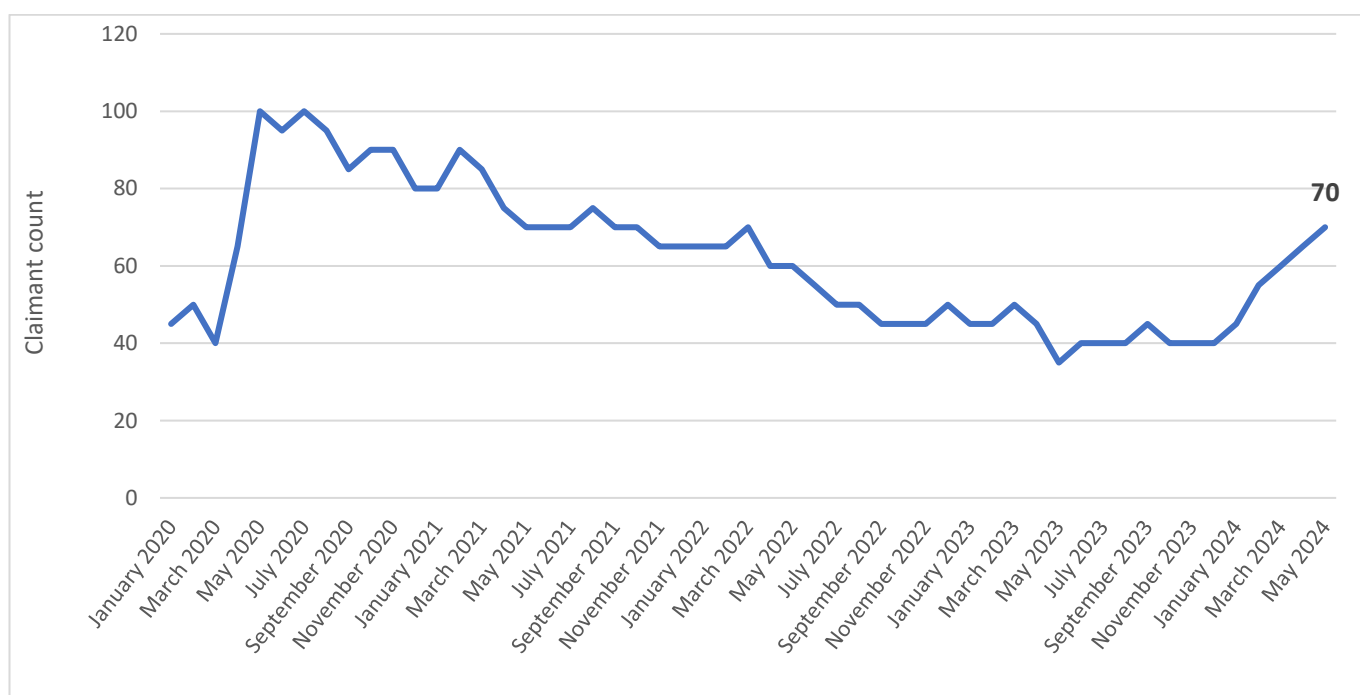
The claimant count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, based on administrative data from the benefits system.

The below chart is a trend chart showing the claimant count for Berinsfield LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B between January 2020 and May 2024.

The number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits in Berinsfield increased significantly at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March and May 2020. More recently there has been an increase in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits since February 2024.

Claimant count as a proportion of the residents aged 16-64 for Berinsfield LSOAs was 3.7% as of May 2024, higher than the average for South Oxfordshire (1.9%) and Oxfordshire (2.1%).

Figure 22 Claimant count trend for Berinsfield LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B from January 2020 to May 2024



Source: DWP Claimant count from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk); rate uses ONS mid-year population estimate from Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](http://ons.gov.uk))

## 7 Poverty and deprivation

### 7.1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

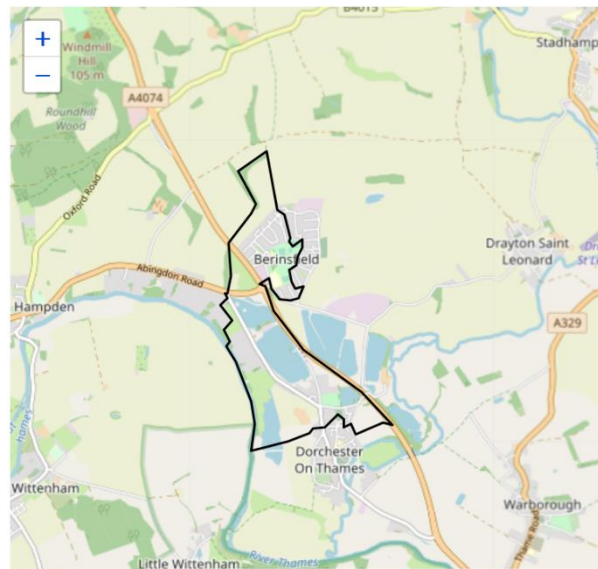
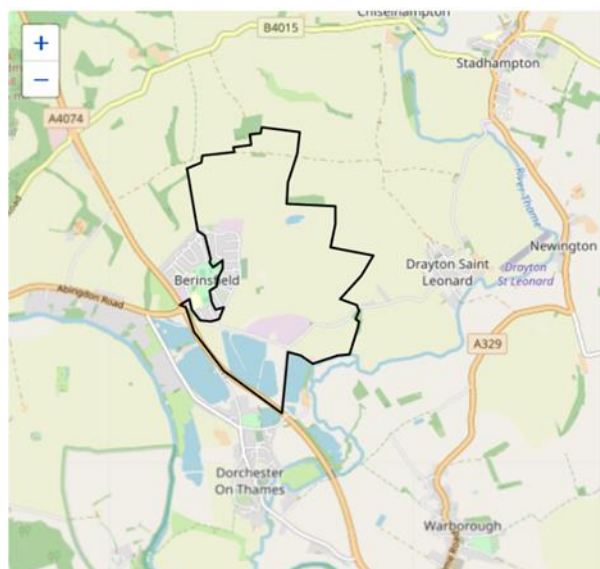
The index of multiple deprivation is an official measure of relative deprivation of small areas within England. The measure is created by combining and weighing data from 7 different domains: income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education and skills training, crime, barriers to housing and services and living environment. The overall IMD score is used to rank small areas based on level of deprivation.

The table below shows the LSOAs in the Berinsfield area ranked against areas across England. The LSOA South Oxfordshire 006B falls within the 10% most deprived and LSOA South Oxfordshire within the 20% most deprived, in Education, Skills and Training.

Table 3 MHCLG English Indices of Deprivation 2019 deciles for the LSOAs in the Berinsfield area (1 is the most deprived, 10 is the least deprived)

LSOA Area Name	Overall IMD	IMD Domains							IDACI and IDAOPI	
	IMD	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment Decile	Income Deprivation Affecting Children	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People
South Oxfordshire 006A	5	4	4	2	6	8	5	9	3	6
South Oxfordshire 006B	4	4	5	1	7	8	9	6	3	7

Figure 23 Map showing LSOA South Oxfordshire 006A, ranked within the 20% most deprived in Education, Skills and Training (left) and LSOA South Oxfordshire 006B, ranked within the 10% most deprived in Education, Skills and Training (right)



Map from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

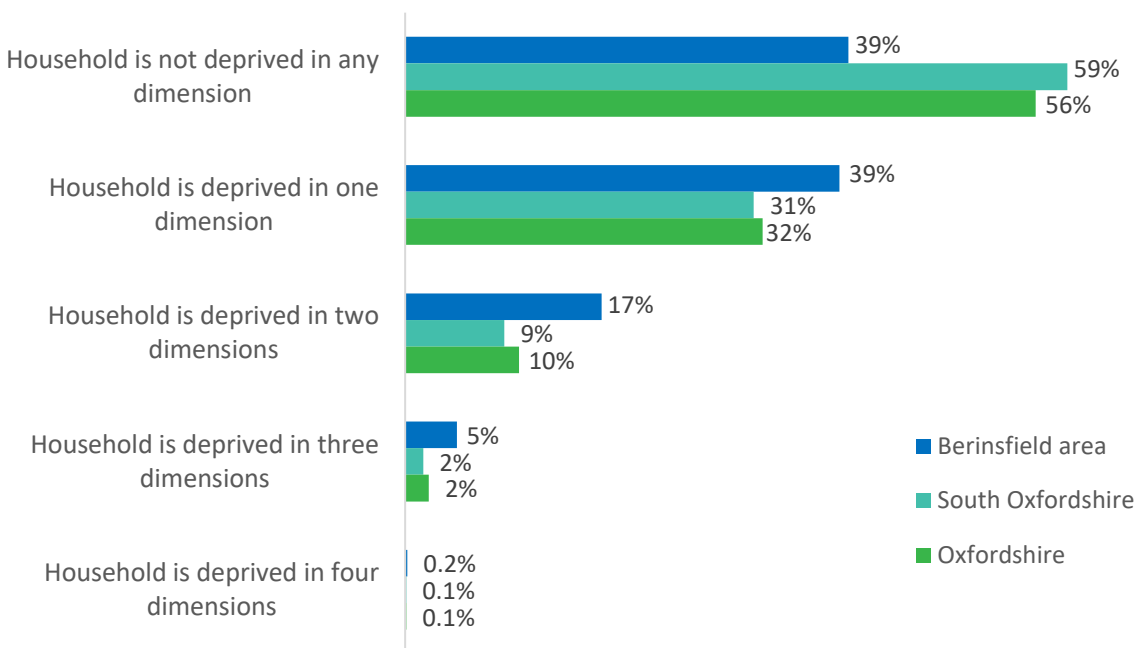
## 7.2 Household deprivation

The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics.

- **Education:** A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.
- **Employment:** A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.
- **Health:** A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled.
- **Housing:** A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

The Berinsfield Community Insight area has a higher proportion of households classified as deprived in one or more dimensions (61%) than the South Oxfordshire (41%) and Oxfordshire average (44%) or a lower proportion classified as not deprived.

Figure 24 Proportion of households not deprived in any dimensions, deprived in one, two, three or four dimensions

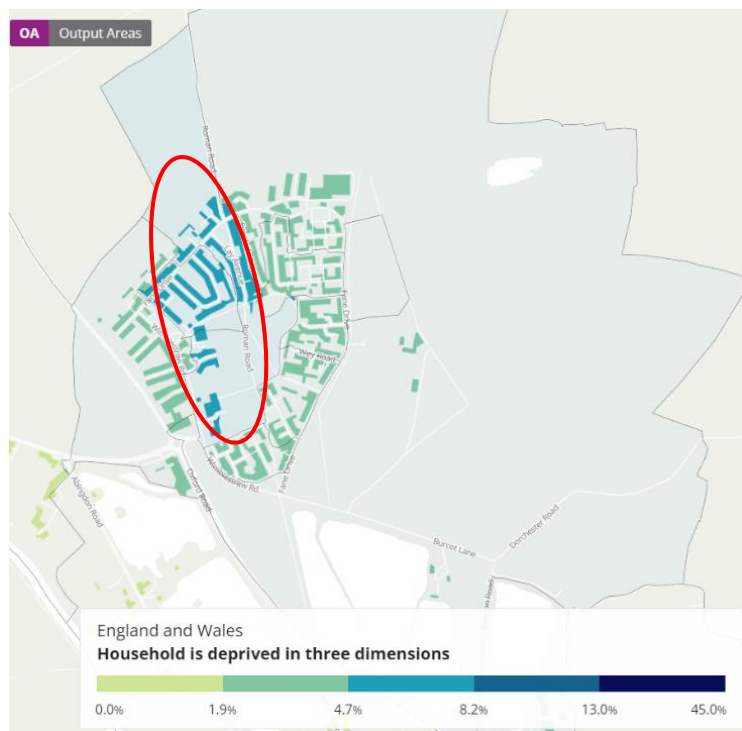


Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS011 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

However, there is variation in household deprivation within the Berinsfield area, which means that the averages for the area may hide wide differences.

The area between Fane Drive, Evenlode Drive, Roman Road and Wimplestraw Road (circled in Figure 25) is more likely to have households in relative deprivation.

Figure 25 Map of the Berinsfield Community Insight area showing the percentage of housing deprived in three dimensions



[Household deprivation - Census Maps, ONS](#)

### 7.3 Children in poverty

Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

As of 2022/23, there were 131 children aged 0-15 years living in poverty (relative low-income families) in the Berinsfield Community Insight Area, a rate of 21% per population aged 0-15. This was well above the average for South Oxfordshire (9%) and Oxfordshire (11%).

Table 4 The number of children in poverty and rate of child poverty (2022/23)

	<b>Berinsfield Community Insight area</b>	<b>South Oxfordshire</b>	<b>Oxfordshire</b>
<b>Total 0-19</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>2,303</b>	<b>13,967</b>
<b>Rate of child poverty per population 0-19</b>	21%	9%	11%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore, Children in relative low income families, rate uses ONS mid-year population estimate (0-15 years) from Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) see also [Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-financial-year-ending-2021)

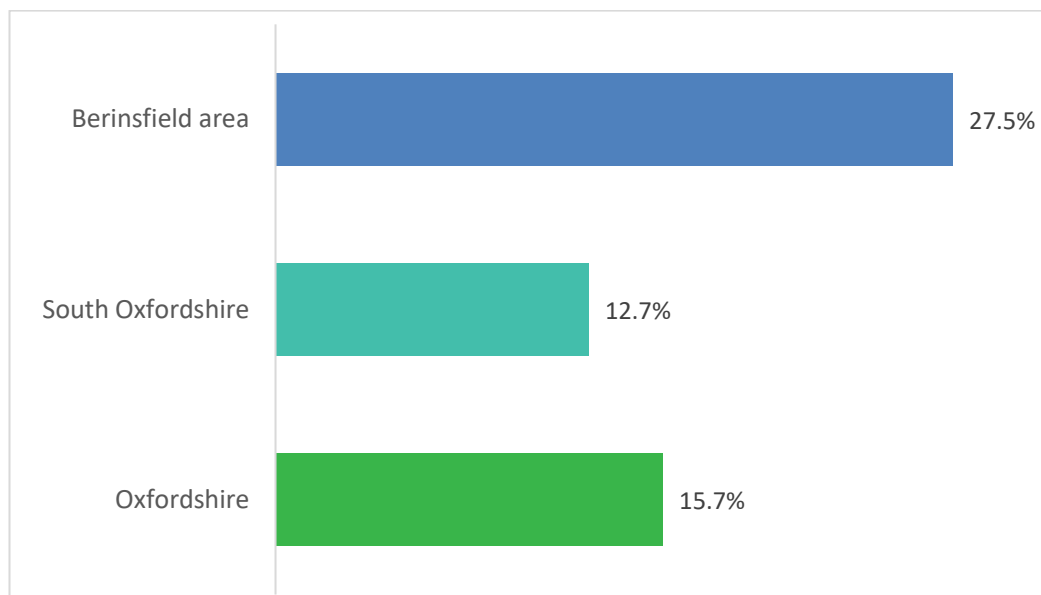
## 7.4 Free school meals

*Pupils are eligible for Free School Meals if the household receives any of the below:*

- *Income Support*
- *income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit - household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)*

As of January 2024, 27.5% (count=140) of primary and secondary pupils living in the Berinsfield Community Insight area were eligible for Free School Meals. This was well above the average for South Oxfordshire (12.7%) and Oxfordshire (15.7%).

*Figure 26 Percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (all pupils)*



Source: Oxfordshire County Council (January 2024)

## 7.5 Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator. Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below

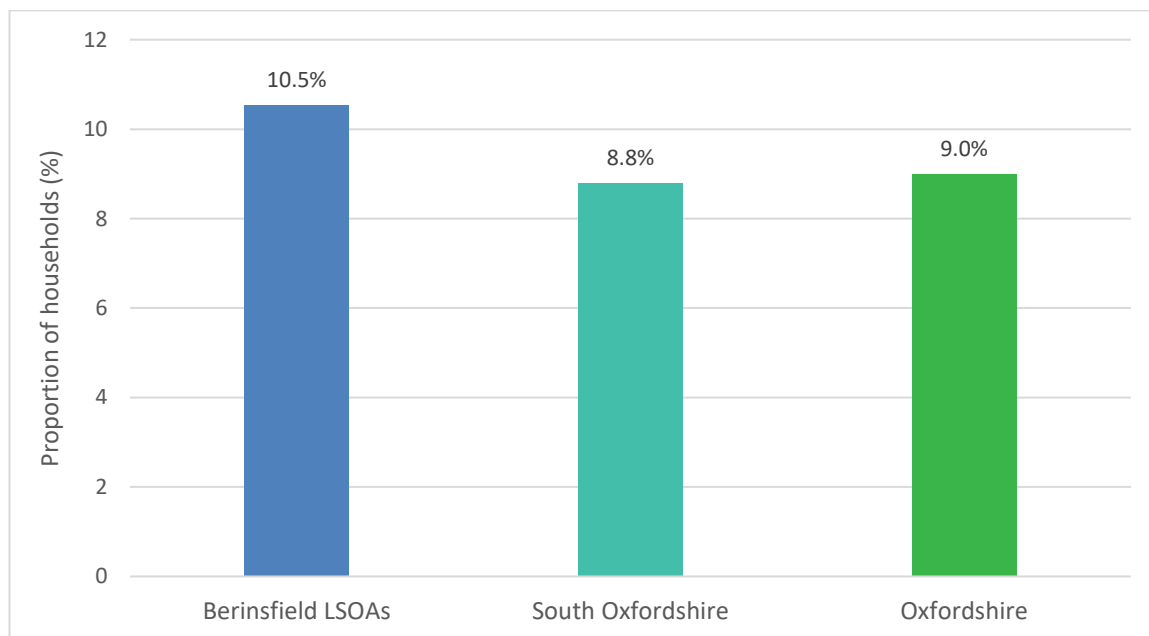
and

- when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

The data in this graph is provided from the Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics at a subnational level for LSOAs in England. Berinsfield area here includes the LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B.

The chart below shows that in 2022, Berinsfield had a higher proportion of households in fuel poverty (10.5%) than the average for South Oxfordshire (8.8%) and Oxfordshire (9%).

Figure 27 Proportion of households fuel poor in Berinsfield (LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B), South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire, 2022



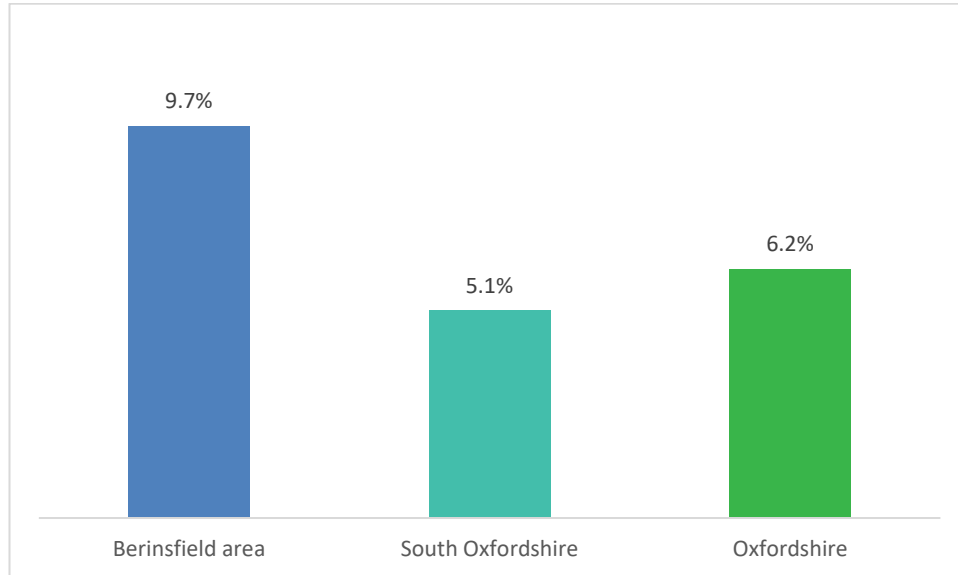
Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022

## 7.6 Pension credit

*Pension credit can be claimed by those aged 65 and over who reached state pension age before 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and have made some additional provision for their retirement, for example through private pension or savings (see [Citizens Advice](#) for full eligibility criteria).*

As of November 2023, 9.7% (count=57) of older residents were claiming pension credit in the Berinsfield Community Insight area, higher than the average for South Oxfordshire (5.1%) and Oxfordshire (6.2%).

*Figure 28 Percentage of population aged 65+ claiming pension credit*



Source: Pension Credit from StatXplore; rate uses ONS mid-2022 population estimate (65+ years) from Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)



## 8 Crime and community safety

Based on the area's LSOAs, IMD subdomain deciles ranks Berinsfield as not deprived, compared to other areas in England in relation to *Crime*, which measures the risk of personal and material victimisation (see section [7.1](#)).

In 2022 the overall rate of crime in Berinsfield & Wittenham MSOA was 69.1 crimes per 1,000 residents, ranking 31<sup>st</sup> out of the 86 MSOAs in Oxfordshire. This was below the average rate of crime for Oxfordshire of 74.5.

The highest ranked crime was *Violence and sexual offences* (32.6 crimes per 1,000).

Out of all the crime categories, Berinsfield & Wittenham ranked the highest for the category *Other crime* (which includes forgery, perjury and other miscellaneous crime), with a rate of 1.8 crimes per 1,000 residents, placing it 8<sup>th</sup> out of the MSOAs in Oxfordshire.

Figure 29 Overall rate of crime and rate of Violence and sexual offences per 1,000 population for MSOAs in Oxfordshire (2022)

Overall rate of crime				Violence and sexual offences			
Area	Offences	Rate	Change	Area	Offences	Rate	Change
Bicester South	1,854	214.7	+33.9%	Banbury Grimsbury	946	74.1	+8.5%
Oxford Central	3,665	192.7	+12.5%	Banbury Ruscote	592	66.9	+15.8%
Banbury Grimsbury	2,411	188.8	+7.9%	Oxford Central	1,190	62.6	+24.8%
East Central Oxford	1,950	171.0	+5.9%	Banbury Neithrop	353	58.6	+0.1%
Banbury Neithrop	944	156.6	-1.4%	Abingdon Town & ..	631	57.0	+22.8%
Abingdon Town & ..	1,700	153.6	+7.7%	Blackbird Leys	359	54.9	+0.1%
Blackbird Leys	949	145.0	-7.0%	East Central Oxford	613	53.7	+14.9%
Witney Central	1,570	145.0	+41.1%	Littlemore & Rose H..	614	53.4	+13.1%
Banbury Ruscote	1,164	131.6	+15.9%	Bicester South	413	47.8	+15.3%
Cowley South & Iffley	1,370	130.7	+8.6%	Greater Leys	324	46.7	-14.5%
Littlemore & Rose H..	1,453	126.3	+7.3%	Didcot South East	246	44.1	-18.2%
Osney, Jericho & P..	765	115.9	+0.7%	Witney Central	467	43.1	+17.7%
Churchill	792	103.1	-13.0%	Cowley South & Iffley	428	40.8	+28.0%
Barton	856	101.3	-4.1%	Barton	341	40.4	-3.4%
Didcot West	985	98.7	+0.7%	Banbury Easington	363	39.5	-10.0%
Greater Leys	680	98.0	-15.0%	Churchill	300	39.1	-7.1%
Grandpont & New H..	516	92.8	+1.6%	Didcot West	379	38.0	-3.1%
Didcot South East	494	88.6	-10.6%	Bicester West	326	37.0	+13.6%
Headington	993	87.5	-1.9%	Banbury Calthorpe	198	35.1	-2.3%
Iffley Fields	503	86.5	-3.3%	Abingdon South	271	34.0	-2.0%
Banbury Easington	792	86.2	-6.8%	Chipping Norton	247	34.0	+1.6%
Banbury Calthorpe	475	84.2	-5.8%	Banbury Hardwick	305	33.6	-6.7%
Wheatley & Great H..	557	82.6	-12.1%	<b>Berinsfield &amp; Witten..</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>+3.4%</b>
Begbroke, Yarnton ..	555	82.3	-4.3%	Didcot South West	202	31.6	+3.7%
Bicester West	720	81.7	+3.5%	Osney, Jericho & P..	208	31.5	+8.0%
Cowley North	1,369	81.6	-10.3%	Grandpont & New H..	173	31.1	+4.8%
Chipping Norton	575	79.1	+6.8%	Carterton South	176	31.1	+11.0%
Wantage Town	824	78.5	+13.2%	Wantage Town	320	30.5	+12.0%
Banbury Hardwick	632	69.5	-10.4%	Islip, Arncott & Che..	389	29.6	+3.6%
Eynsham & Stanton..	413	69.4	-12.3%	Eynsham & Stanton..	172	28.9	+1.0%
<b>Berinsfield &amp; Witten..</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>	Headington	324	28.6	-1.1%
Abingdon South	545	68.4	-12.3%	Cowley North	478	28.5	-14.1%

Source: Recorded crime from Police UK data from Oxfordshire Crime dashboard [Community safety | Oxfordshire Insight](#)

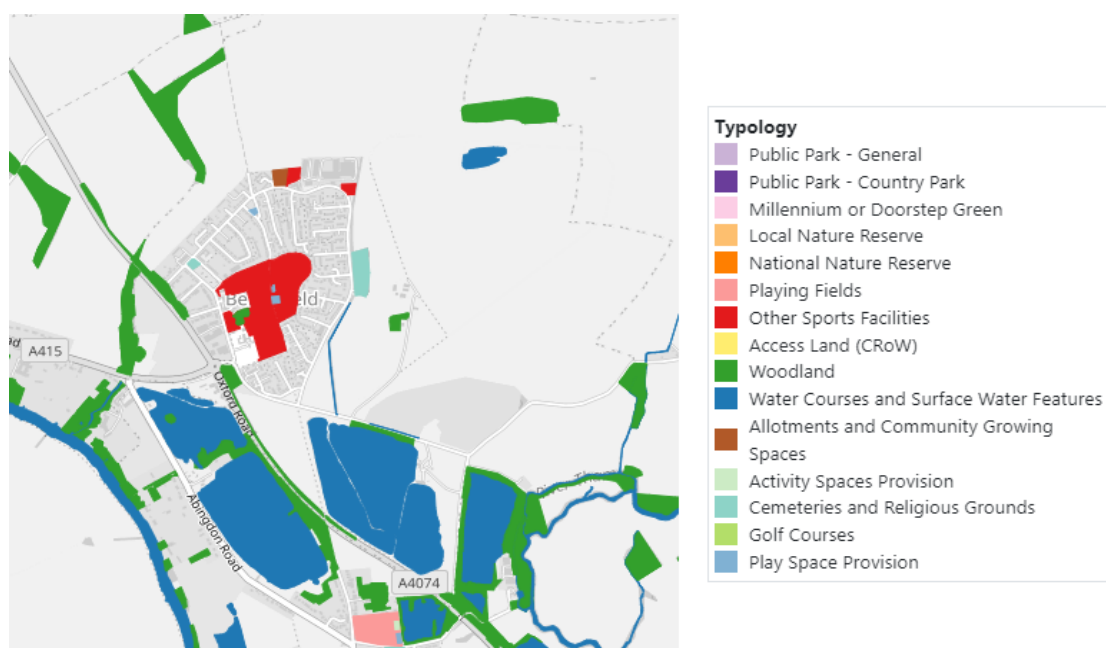
## 9 Access to green space

Based on the area's LSOAs, IMD subdomain deciles ranks Berinsfield as less deprived, compared to other areas in England in relation to *Barriers to Housing and Services*, which measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services (see section [7.1](#)).

Mapping by Natural England shows that the Berinsfield Community Insight area is surrounded by accessible natural green and blue spaces including woodland, water courses and other sports facilities.

There is a variety of land owners near Berinsfield, including different levels of Local Authority (County, District and Parish councils), University of Oxford, government (e.g. Highways England), commercial and private entities.

*Figure 30 Natural England mapping of Green and Blue Infrastructure in the Berinsfield Community Insight area*



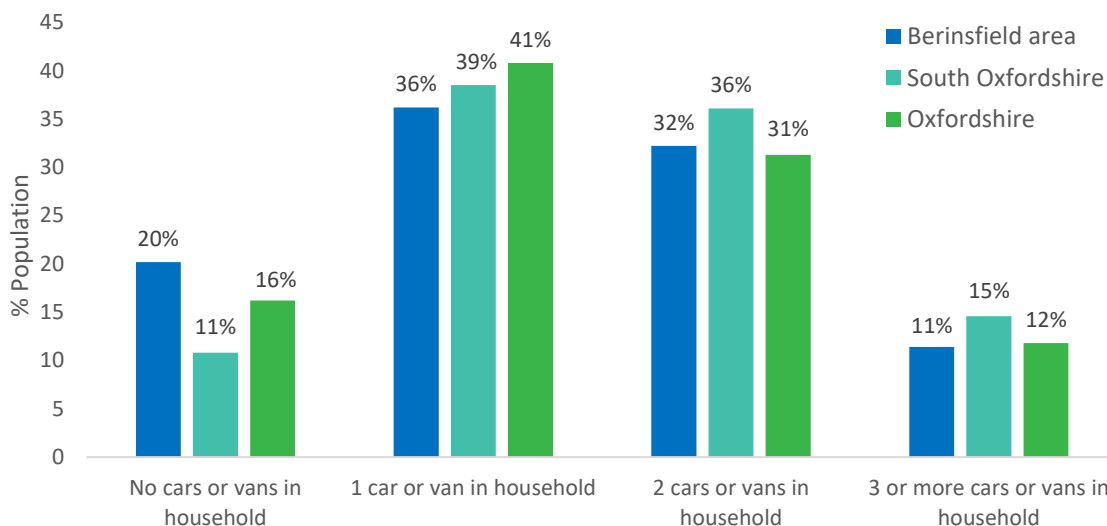
Source: [Green Infrastructure Map \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)

# 10 Transport

## 10.1 Car ownership

According to the Census 2021, households in the Berinsfield Community Insight area are less likely to have a car (20%) than the average for South Oxfordshire (11%) and Oxfordshire (16%).

Figure 31 Percentage of households with cars or vans available for use

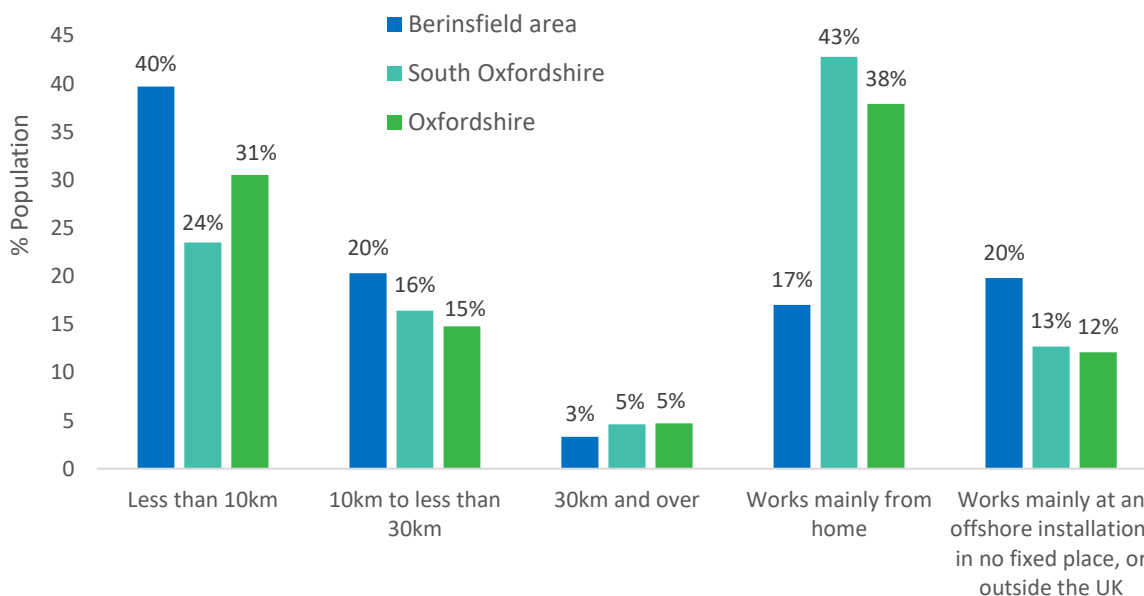


Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS045 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

## 10.2 Distance travelled to work

In the Berinsfield Community Insight area, those in employment were most likely to travel less than 10km to work (39.7%). This was different to the averages for South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire, where residents were more likely to work mainly from home (43% and 38% respectively).

Figure 32 Percentage of residents by the distance they travel to work



Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS058 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk> Note that the Census 2021 took place in March 2021 when lockdown restrictions were in place.

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### 10.3 Method of travel to work

Residents in the Berinsfield Community Insight area are less likely to work from home (16.9%) compared to the average for South Oxfordshire (42.8%) and Oxfordshire (37.9%) and are more likely to travel by car to work compared to both areas (59.4% vs 41.3% and 40.2% respectively).

Table 5 Percentage of residents by method of travel to work

Method of travel to workplace	Berinsfield Community Insight area	South Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire
Work mainly at or from home	16.9%	42.8%	37.9%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Train	0.1%	1.2%	0.8%
Bus, minibus or coach	5.0%	1.5%	3.5%
Taxi	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	1.0%	0.4%	0.4%
Driving a car or van	59.4%	41.3%	40.2%
Passenger in a car or van	6.8%	2.7%	3.0%
Bicycle	2.3%	2.1%	4.2%
On foot	7.6%	7.1%	8.7%
Other method of travel to work	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%

Source: ONS Census 2021 Table TS061 from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Note that the Census 2021 took place in March 2021 when lockdown restrictions were in place.

## Annex: Background to the Berinsfield area used in this profile

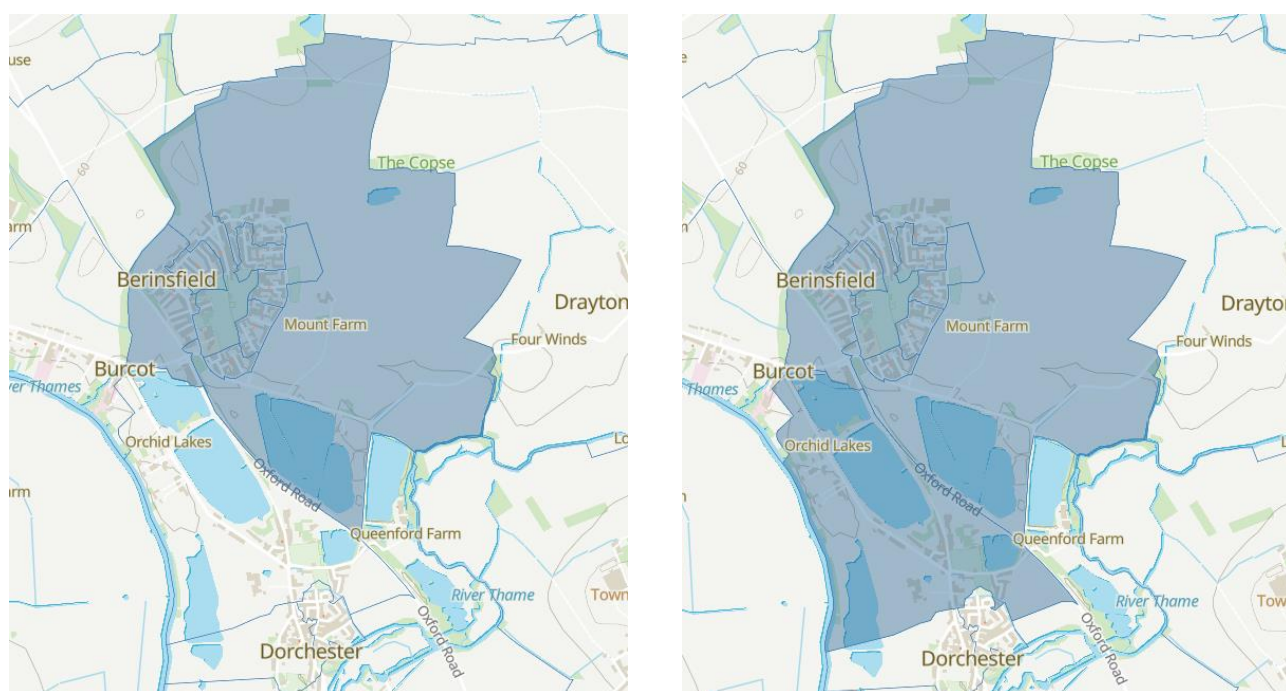
Before starting work on this profile, the Berinsfield Community Insight Profile steering group had a detailed discussion about the extent of the geographical area to be used for selecting data.

From a data perspective it would have been convenient to have been able to use an area made up of two Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B – including part of Dorchester village.

From a community perspective, however, it made more sense to focus as closely as possible on Berinsfield itself.

The following maps show the final agreed Berinsfield Community Insight area (on the left), decided by the Berinsfield Community Insight Profile steering group, and a wider Berinsfield area including part of Dorchester to the south (on the right).

*Figure 33 Maps showing Berinsfield Community Insight area (left) and a larger area Berinsfield area comprised of two LSOAs South Oxfordshire 006A and 006B (right)*



Maps from [Build a custom area profile – Census 2021, ONS](#)

Comparative statistics for the two areas shows that including part of Dorchester affects the rates of deprivation and relative poverty:

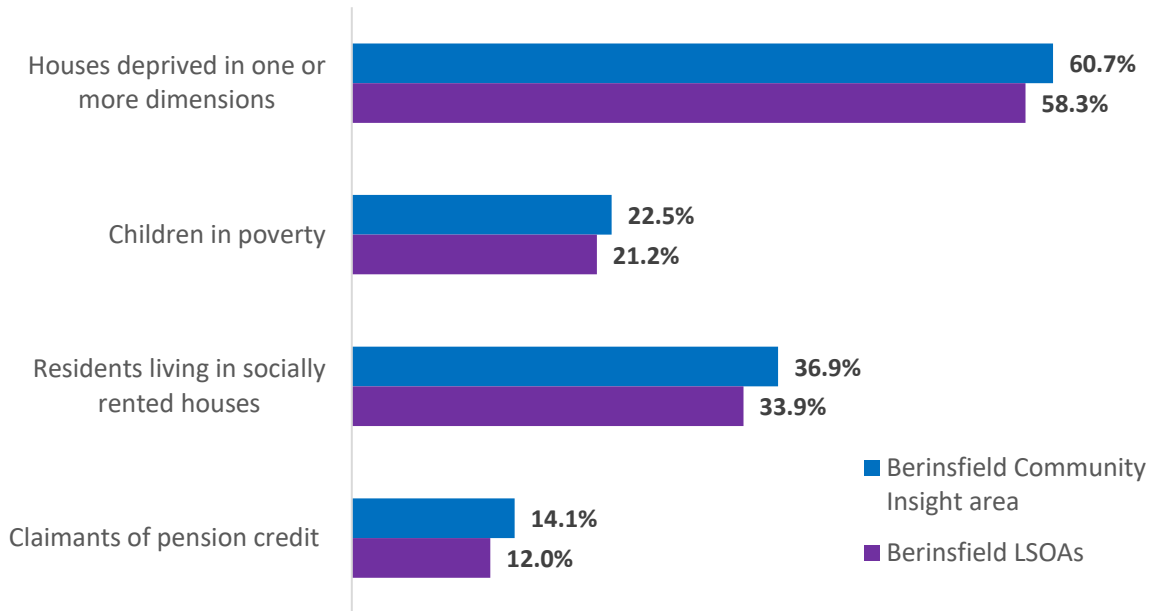
- 60.7% of households in the Berinsfield Community Insight area were classified as deprived in one or more dimensions<sup>3</sup>, higher than the proportion for the two Berinsfield LSOAs (58.3%).
- 22.5% of children were living in poverty<sup>4</sup> in the Berinsfield Community Insight area, above that for Berinsfield LSOAs (21.2%).

<sup>3</sup> ONS Census 2021 Table TS011

<sup>4</sup> DWP statXplore, children aged 0-19, 2021/22

- 36.9% of residents were living in socially rented households<sup>5</sup> in the Berinsfield Community Insight area, above that for Berinsfield LSOAs (33.9%).
- 14.1% of older residents were claiming pension credit<sup>6</sup> in the Berinsfield area as of May 2023, above that for Berinsfield LSOAs (12.0%).

Figure 34 Indicators of deprivation and low income for Berinsfield Community Insight area and Berinsfield LSOAs (including part of Dorchester)



Sources: ONS Census 2021 Table TS011, TS054 and DWP StatXplore

<sup>5</sup> ONS Census 2021 table TS054

<sup>6</sup> DWP statXplore, residents aged 65+, May 2023

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## **Appendix 3: Berinsfield Community Insight Report 2024**



# Berinsfield Community Insight Report 2024



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*Note: All images in the report are provided by South Oxfordshire District Council*

## Acknowledgements

The Community Insight Profile health and wellbeing project was overseen by the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group made up of a variety of different representatives including voluntary and community organisations, residents, statutory and non-statutory agencies, and the Parish council. Throughout the project's timeline, the group provided a wealth of knowledge and influence at every stage of the profile's development, feeding back to the Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group. It is with gratitude that we share our appreciation for their involvement in the project, to bring together a multiagency approach to tackle local health inequalities in Berinsfield.

## Foreword

“A few years back, Berinsfield was awarded Garden Village status, which has enabled us to plan and provide new facilities, support existing services and organisations, and work to improve the lives of those living in the community. But we know there is still much work to be done. Everybody deserves to be able to lead a healthy and fulfilled life, but we know that inequalities remain within the village, as in many communities in Oxfordshire. This Insight Report within the surveys behind it help us to map those challenges more clearly and precisely.

I'm grateful to all those who completed our survey or took part in focus groups – your responses have been vital in helping inform this work We now have the voices and experience of residents of Berinsfield and those working with members of the community alongside the raw data.

I'd also like to acknowledge the hard work of the community and council officers in producing this Insight Report. The recommendations set out will allow us to plan actions towards a range of activity which we all hope will lead to improved health and wellbeing outcomes in the community”.

***Councillor Robin Bennett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development, South Oxfordshire District Council***

“We know how important health and wellbeing is – it means happier, healthier lives and allows communities such as Berinsfield to thrive.

This report does vital work in helping us understand the experience of those living in the village in relation to health and wellbeing. It outlines the health challenges and what can positively influence the improvement of health outcomes for Berinsfield residents. With the series of recommendations in the report, we can now create an action plan towards a range of activities which will lead to improved health and wellbeing outcomes in the community.

I’m looking forward to these recommendations being implemented and seeing the impact on the lives of the residents.”

***Councillor Georgina Heritage, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities, South Oxfordshire District Council***

“I’ve enjoyed my time Chairing the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing group leading on the Community Insight project, and I would like to thank all those involved.

It’s been great to hear all the feedback from residents, organisations, and businesses and even better to see us all coming together to understand collectively how we can collaborate further to strengthen the great assets and services for Berinsfield. It is encouraging to identify improvements and understand what is already working well.

It’s good to get the Community Insight Report completed as the first stage of this project. I look forward to progressing the grants scheme to help stakeholders launch the action plan in association with the recommendations outlined in this report. This will positively help the community address health inequalities.”

***Lily Jones, Chair of the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group, Resident and Chair of Berinsfield Youth Council***

# 1 Key findings from the research

Below is a summary of key findings from the Community Insight engagement carried out between July to November 2023.

Key findings for adults	Key findings for young people
<b>Berinsfield as a place to live</b>	
Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three things they like about Berinsfield village. Most (70%) selected green spaces, closely followed by community facilities and activities (69%).	Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three things they like about Berinsfield village. 17% selected local family and friends, followed by green spaces (11%) and access to local services (11%).
<b>Loneliness, identity and belonging</b>	
Most respondents (61%) feel they are part of the local community, more specifically 43% agree and 18% strongly agree with this statement. When asked about loneliness, most respondents (38%) reported feeling lonely sometimes, followed by 30% who rarely feel lonely, whilst 13% never feel lonely.	In relation to the community and loneliness, most respondents (61%) either agreed or strongly agreed that they feel part of the community. When asked about loneliness, 33% reported rarely feeling lonely, 24% said that they feel lonely sometimes, whilst 12% said that they feel lonely most of the time.
<b>Staying physically and mentally well</b>	
When asked what helps respondents stay physically and mentally well, the majority (72%) said spending time outdoors or in nature helps, closely followed by taking part in physically activity and movement (70%).	Respondents were also asked how mentally well they consider themselves to be, 35% selected feeling quite well and 24% feeling neither well nor unwell. When asked what helps respondents stay physically and mentally well, the majority (85%) said a strong social support network and another 85% selected talking to people and seeking help.
Of the respondents that said they have a physical or mental health condition or illness, over half (61%) said the condition or illness has reduced their ability to carry out day to day activities a little. 22% of respondents said it has reduced their ability a lot. Over a third of respondents (72%) agree or strongly agree that they maintain healthy lifestyle habits around food and eating and 12% disagree.	In relation to food, 38% of respondents neither agree nor disagree that they have access to healthy food options, 24% agree and 24% disagree. Over half the respondents (56%) agreed that they or their family maintain healthy lifestyle habits around food followed by 26% who neither agreed nor disagreed.

Key findings for adults	Key findings for young people
<p>Most respondents (92%) reported that they have observed people smoking and vaping in Berinsfield. However, 6% have not. Consuming alcohol (74%) is also seen, whilst 24% have not seen this. 53% have witnessed people handling/consuming drugs in Berinsfield, but 37% have not.</p>	<p>57% have witnessed people handling/consuming drugs in Berinsfield, 20% have not and 20% selected I don't know.</p>
<p>Barriers to health and wellbeing</p>	
<p>Amongst half of respondents (48%) feel 'cost and affordability' is one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well, closely followed by personal motivation (44%).</p>	<p>Nearly three quarters of respondents (74%) feel personal motivation is one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well, closely followed by cost and affordability (71%).</p>
<p>Education, employment, and training</p>	
<p>80% of respondents feel they have the skills and or qualifications to find employment, whilst (11%) disagree. The majority (41%) can access local opportunities to learn new skills and/or gain qualifications, 22% expressed disagreement.</p>	<p>26% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed that there are local opportunities to learn new skills and/or gain qualifications, 23% agreed and 11% disagreed. 29% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed that they were able to access local opportunities, 20% disagree and 17% agree.</p>
<p>Community safety</p>	
<p>Most adult respondents (85%) feel safe during the day in Berinsfield village and a considerable number of respondents 25% feel mostly safe at night. However, 21% do not feel safe, 13% expressed feeling not very safe and 8% feeling not safe at all.</p>	<p>41% of respondents said that they felt safe during the day, 15% mostly safe and 12% not very safe. 9% felt very safe. We also asked respondents how safe they feel at night, 32% felt safe, 24% not very safe, 12% mostly safe and 6% very safe.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	
<p>Most adult respondents indicated that they travel in and around Berinsfield by walking (78%) and using a car (65%). Less popular options included using a bicycle (13%), bus (3%), taxi (2%), motorbike/moped (2%) and e-scooter (2%)</p>	<p>100% of young respondents said that they walked in and around Berinsfield and others by bus (75%). Others travelled by car (53%), bicycle (50%) and e-scooter (28%).</p>
<p>16% of adult respondents indicated that the lack of transport options was a challenge in keeping physically and mentally well.</p>	<p>59% of young respondents indicated that the lack of transport options was a challenge in keeping physically and mentally well.</p>

## 2 Introduction

In November 2023, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) commissioned an independent review of data and insight gathered by the council as part of a community engagement exercise undertaken between July and November 2023 towards the development of the Berinsfield Community Insight profile.

The aim of this community insight profile is to:

- ✓ Understand the experience of those living in Berinsfield village in relation to health and wellbeing.
- ✓ Outline the health challenges and what can positively influence the improvement of health outcomes.
- ✓ Present a series of recommendations that will guide action planning towards a range of activities aimed at improving health and wellbeing outcomes in the community.

We asked the community questions about what supports their health and wellbeing, challenges they face and what would help them live happier healthier lives. Their responses were used to produce recommendations aimed at reducing health inequalities and providing more opportunities for the Berinsfield community to thrive and prosper. The profile includes the voice and experience of residents of Berinsfield and those working with members of the community.

A consultant was appointed to undertake an independent desk review of quantitative and qualitative data and information to support the production of the community insight report for Berinsfield.

Recommendations from this report will be used to form an action plan that will be carried forward as part of the project.

This Insight Report should be read in conjunction with other supplementary documents produced as part of the project including the Berinsfield Data Report that is produced by Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council and focuses on local and national data and statistics.

The two reports have come together to develop the Berinsfield Community Insight Profile. An executive summary that brings together key findings from both documents is also provided.



Figure 1 Picture of the water tower in Berinsfield



## 2.1 Background

The Berinsfield Garden Village program is delivering a variety of projects, including those focused on creating a healthy environment and revitalizing the area.

In early 2023, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Public Health at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) initiated work with local partners to develop a community insight profile for Berinsfield. The approach used was similar to ones used in other areas of the county at risk of poorer health outcomes and aimed at gathering in-depth community perspectives.

The community insight profile includes recommendations to help plan activities that improve health and wellbeing in the area. It was clear from the beginning that success would require a collaborative effort from multiple agencies.

Despite Oxfordshire being one of the wealthiest regions in the country, there are pockets of significant deprivation. Berinsfield, while not among the top 10 most deprived wards in Oxfordshire, still faces challenges. According to the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), parts of Berinsfield fall within the most deprived 40-50% nationally in terms of income and are in the most deprived 10% for education, skills, and training.

At the start of the project, local stakeholders expressed concerns that the data for Berinsfield, which is reported alongside data from

neighbouring wards, may not accurately reflect the true situation in the village.

The Community Insight Profile process provided an opportunity to delve deeper into the data and consider additional information specific to Berinsfield.



*Figure 2 War memorial in Berinsfield*

## 2.2 Asset based approach.

The community insight activity has focused on analysing health data and collecting community insight from residents, local organisations and stakeholders utilising an asset-based community development approach (ABCD).

The approach facilitates the empowerment of individuals and communities by helping them to identify and share their strengths and then work together to create their own social innovations.

## 2.3 Timeline

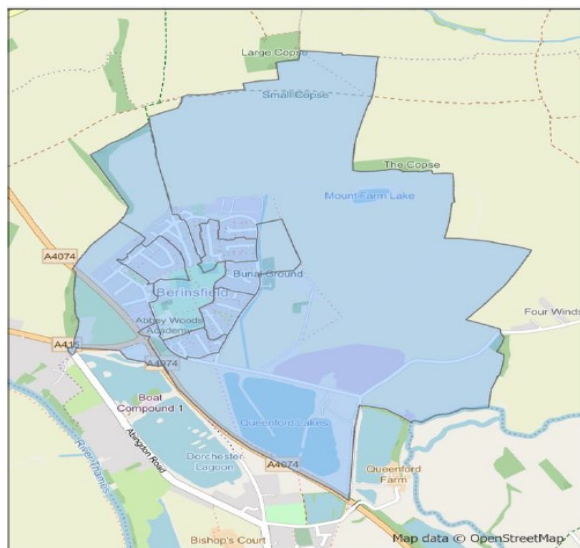
The timeline for the project and various stages are outlined below.

<u>Spring 2023</u>	<u>Summer 2023</u>	<u>July – November 2023</u>	<u>November 2023</u>	<u>January – July 2024</u>
<b>Ambition to develop a Community Insight profile shared with the Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group</b>	<b>Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing subgroup is established to oversee the development of the Community Insight Profile</b>	<b>Community engagement is undertaken to gather residents and stakeholder views</b>	<b>A data profile is created, and an independent consultant is commissioned to evaluate findings and develop key findings and recommendations</b>	<b>A draft Community Insight Profile and executive summary with key findings and recommendations is completed. The Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group, reviews all data to address findings to develop an action plan</b>

### 3 About Berinsfield

#### 3.1 Location and history

Berinsfield is a ward located in the South Oxfordshire district, that is five miles south of the Oxford ring road and four miles north-west of Didcot. This rural village is in the Oxford Green Belt and surrounded by countryside, which is valued by local people for walking and cycling access.



Mapping by Oxfordshire County Council

*Figure 3 Map of Berinsfield –Open Street Maps*

Berinsfield has a unique, largely post World War II, history. A few families occupying abandoned nissen huts on the former military airfield, grew into a planned village to house Oxford overspill, which included low density housing, shops, a secondary school, church, and employment area.

The houses in that first area are now all privately owned but successive areas of development, mostly in the 1970's, comprise a high level of social housing. The community assets built early in the village's history, which helped to bind the community together, have exceeded their economic life and there is need for infrastructure improvements. These include the current leisure centre, formerly part of the secondary school that closed in the 1980's and various community buildings operated by local organisations.

Discoveries which dated back to Palaeolithic and neolithic times were identified in the area when the land was studied. Both Roman and Anglo-Saxon artefacts were recovered, as well as numerous mammoth bones, tusks, and teeth. A fine collection of coins and flint axes can be seen at the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford. Other historic aerial photography of the area showed numerous Bronze Age Ring ditched in fields to the north of the village. One large ring ditch to the south of the village, which was also high-lighted along with lots of other crop markings in 1934 was of special interest and was excavated that same year by the Oxford University Archaeological School under J.N.L. Myers who found two Bronze Age ring ditches. During the building of the flats in Cherwell Road and Evenlode Drive a Roman Pottery factory was discovered.

Another significant find was the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Walley's Corner, which saw over 200 graves found and around 78 of those were excavated.

There is a strong sense of community in the village closely linked with the range of community facilities and services. Nevertheless, there are socio-economic challenges faced by the people of Berinsfield, which include rural isolation and deprivation that can lead to poorer life

outcomes relating to educational attainment, level of income, and quality of health. To address these challenges and improve outcomes,

### 3.2 Future development

In June 2019, Berinsfield was awarded Garden Village status by the Government. The Garden Village will include currently undeveloped land to the east of the existing village on the former airfield which has been allocated in the SODC Local Plan (adopted December 2020, strategic allocation Policy STRAT10i). Proposed master planning will include the provision of new homes, employment, open spaces, education, active travel, retail, and community facilities, aimed at supporting the regeneration of Berinsfield and the delivery of the necessary community amenities.

Figure 4 displays the current village and potential areas for around 1,700 new homes in the village in yellow and orange zones as well as a possible example of the new layout.

To support the vision in line with the community's needs and aspirations, a Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan was developed and approved in September 2023. The delivery of the plan is overseen by the Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group made up of representatives from a range of partner organisations and community representatives such as locally elected councillors.

A wide range of organisations are working together to help push forward and bring some genuine community-led village improvements to Berinsfield soon. In 2023, SODC pledged more than £550,000 to fund the Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan.

SODC and other organisations are undertaking significant programmes of work in Berinsfield.

The various projects within the plan focus on community health and wellbeing, sustainability and the environment, regeneration and development, community infrastructure, active travel, governance, and legacy. The Community Insight Profile and subsequent actions align closely with the outcomes of the Community Delivery Plan to ensure high quality implementation.

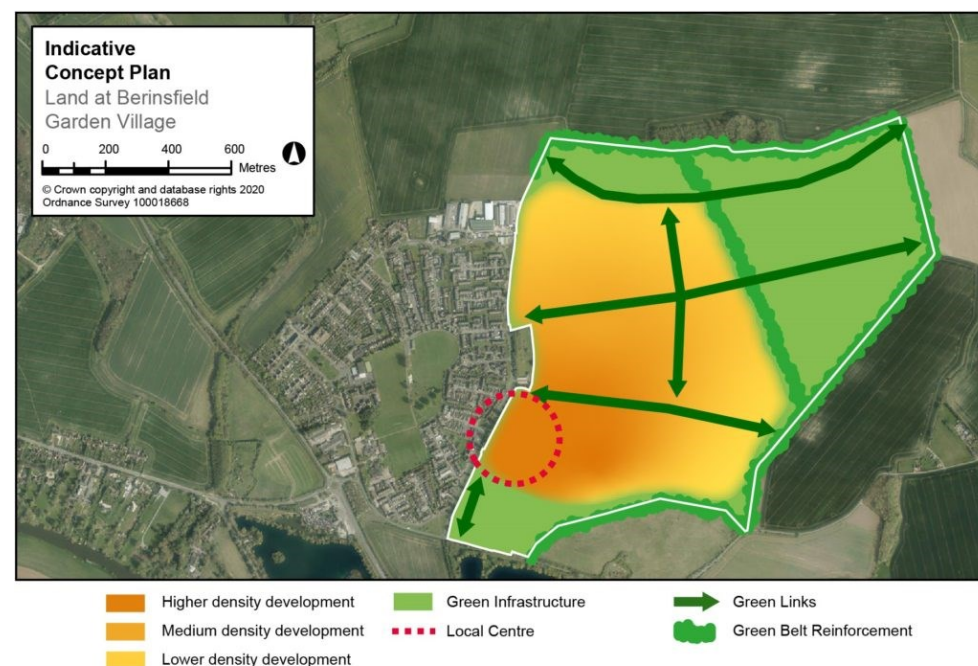


Figure 4 Map of existing village and proposed new development

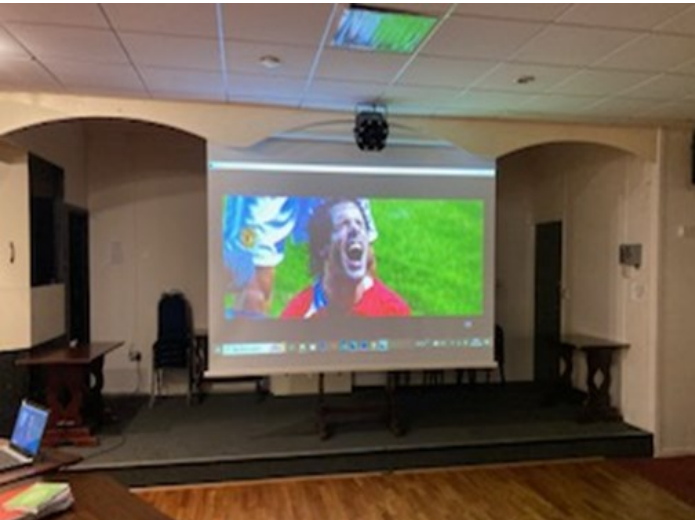
## 4 Community assets overview

SODC undertook a mapping exercise of the community assets in Berinsfield which was presented to the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group. The mapping exercise concluded that the village has an abundance of facilities and physical assets, which are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

SODC also conducted a study to look at all the community buildings and spaces in the village and how they're being used for community activities as part of the work to support regeneration plans. The research explored how new or renovated community buildings and spaces could be designed so that charities, organisations, and groups in the village can continue to offer services that residents want and need in the future. The study recommended three conceptual design options for a community hub plaza in the existing village, which is being considered as part of the wider master planning for development on Mount Farm

The following list of green spaces are well-used and available for the Berinsfield community:

- ✓ **Queenford Lakes** – privately owned facility which has a café, water sports facilities and access to walks around the lake.
- ✓ **Recreational grounds** – including playing/recreational fields, 2 play parks, green gym equipment, table tennis, skateboard park and basketball hoop.
- ✓ **Church Green** (a green space in the centre of the village).
- ✓ 'Let it Bee' sites on Green Furlong and Fane Drive and the central recreational ground.
- ✓ **The Roman Road footpath** which connects the village with Cowley through the countryside. However, presently there is limited access between the Baldons and Blackbird Leys.
- ✓ **Allotments** for local people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.
- ✓ A variety of other green spaces such as **the Copse** and **Spinney**.
- ✓ **Wittenham Clumps** is also within approximately 3.2 miles walking distance of Berinsfield village.
- ✓ **Community Kitchen Garden**: provides a space where local people can come and pick herbs, fruit and vegetables to take home and eat, and to have a garden to tend together. The garden is centrally located outside The Berin Centre.



*Figure 5 Pictures of a selection of community assets in and around Berinsfield.*

Version No: 1st edition Issue date: July 2024

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED.

*The electronic version of this document is the approved and most current. Any printed version is uncontrolled and may not be current. You can read the current, controlled version of the Berinsfield Community Insight Profile on the Oxfordshire Insight website.*

## 5 Community insight research process

SODC started the process of undertaking community insight research in the Berinsfield Community Insight area in May 2023. A series of engagement activities were carried out and public surveys undertaken to gather data from the community. The aim of this was to develop a more robust understanding of how local people feel about health and wellbeing and how it can be improved.

It was important that the profile was co-produced, so the Health and Wellbeing group was created. Invitations to join the group were advertised widely in the community to ensure local oversight and steer. Stakeholders were requested to submit an interest in participating in the group as a member, as well as the opportunity offered for a member of the group to become the Chair.

Membership was diverse including voluntary and community sector organisations, multidisciplinary agencies including those that are statutory, district and parish councillors and local employers. Resident participation in the group was a high priority, therefore Community Representative roles were also advertised to encourage residents to join. This was supported by the Community Outreach Officer, who was able to provide support on the ground to them

### 5.1 Community engagement

In developing the research, a range of engagement activities were planned to ensure all members of the community were given the opportunity to have their say. A stakeholder mapping exercise was

completed to ensure this opportunity was communicated effectively within the community.

The topics of focus for the engagement activities were guided by the Health and Wellbeing group.

The Berinsfield survey focussed on the topics below:

- Local strengths
- Community assets and services
- Physical and mental health
- Access to food and healthy eating
- Isolation
- Education, training, and employment
- Isolation
- Alcohol, drugs, and smoking
- Barriers to staying both mentally and physically well.
- Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Suggestions on how to improve health and wellbeing.

Engagement with residents and community partners sought to understand:

1. What are the strengths and assets in the area that help support and enable your health and wellbeing? What matters to you in the community?
2. What are some of the challenges to your health and wellbeing and what do you think might help address some of these challenges?

This report was compiled with support from an independent consultant who reviewed and analysed all the information gathered during the engagement activities to identify and understand the key issues and themes that emerged concerning health and wellbeing of Berinsfield residents.

A copy of the bespoke Berinsfield data profile developed by the public health team at OCC was also made available to help inform this process, which can be considered in conjunction with this report. Information on existing local consultations, where appropriate was reviewed and analysed, including the Berinsfield Garden Village Community Planning Weekend workshops summaries to provide further depth of understanding on the feedback that the community had provided regarding the regeneration of the existing village and the strategic allocation of 1,700 houses on Land at Mount Farm, Berinsfield which took place in March and April 2023.

Where quotes or case studies have been used, some of the detail was anonymised to make them non-identifiable.



*Figure 6 Historical photo of St Mary and St Berin Church in Berinsfield*



A breakdown of the methods used as part of this insight activity are shown below.

*Table 1 Engagement Methodology Summary*

Method Used	Responders/ Reach	Dissemination
<p><b>Electronic and hard copy community survey.</b></p> <p>The survey ran from 20 September to 3 November 2023.</p> <p>All survey responses have been captured but incomplete questionnaires were not included.</p> <p>Responses to qualitative questions were analysed and presented in the survey report.</p> <p>Please note that when stating percentages in the analysis, response percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up over .5 and rounding down under.</p> <p>Free swimming vouchers were given to those who completed the survey.</p> <p>These responses were collated and analysed separately to ensure that young people had a clear voice on what matters to them to build and maintain their wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 completed responses from adults:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 42 online responses</li> <li>○ 19 hard copy responses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 34 responses from young people</li> </ul>	<p>The survey was emailed to stakeholders asking them to help promote the survey amongst service users and staff.</p> <p>Partners helped promote the consultation including The Berin Centre, Soha and Abbey Woods Academy.</p> <p>Social media/press coverage included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A press release and social media messages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)</li> <li>• Berinsfield Village Voice magazine news article</li> <li>• Publicity on the Spotted Berinsfield Facebook page.</li> <li>• The survey placed on the agenda at a range of meetings such as the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group and Berinsfield Community Network meetings.</li> </ul> <p>Paper copies of the survey and promotional posters were made available in community venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Berin Centre</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Berinsfield Community Association</li> <li>• Leisure Centre</li> </ul>

Method Used	Responders/ Reach	Dissemination
<b>'Pop-up' event called Stay Well Saturday</b>	Estimate attended 50 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Centre</li> </ul> <p>A Stay Well Saturday community event organised by SODC was held on 21 October.</p> <p>It was located opposite the community shops an area of high passing footfall and feature activities and thematic stalls to provide residents with information and advice on ways to keep healthy and improve their wellbeing. Officers were also present to speak to residents and support them in completing a survey.</p> <p>Stallholders included Better Leisure, Health Centre and social prescribers, The Berin Centre, Riverside Counselling, Thames Valley Police, Active Communities Team, Stop Smoking, Yoga Tasters, SODC and Fusion Arts.</p>
<b>1:1 interviews with residents</b>	14	Interviews undertaken by the Berinsfield Community Outreach Officer at The Berin Centre and the community including Stay Well Saturday Event on 21 October 2023.
<b>1:1 interviews with local organisations</b>	15	<p>Organisations interviewed by SODC staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berinsfield Parish Council</li> <li>• Berinsfield Library</li> <li>• Berinsfield Pre School</li> <li>• Abbey Woods Primary School</li> <li>• Wallingford Foodbank</li> <li>• Berinsfield Community Association</li> <li>• Soha</li> <li>• Williams Jet Tenders</li> </ul>

Method Used	Responders/ Reach	Dissemination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rogers Metal management</li> <li>• Riverside Counselling</li> <li>• Berry Youth Centre</li> <li>• Thames Valley Police</li> <li>• Social Prescriber (based at the Health Centre)</li> <li>• The Berin Centre</li> <li>• Berinsfield Youth Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Resident case studies</b>	4	Interviews undertaken by the Berinsfield Community Outreach Officer at The Berin Centre.
<b>Young people focus group</b> (held on 19 July 2023)	10	Session held at the Youth Centre and facilitated by 3 volunteer youth workers.
<b>Intergenerational focus group</b> (held on 28 July 2023)	6	Facilitated by the Berinsfield Community Outreach Officer at the Berin Centre.
<b>Older People focus group</b> (held on 4 August 2023)	19 people who attend the Day Centre and 3 staff/volunteers	Facilitated by the Berinsfield Community Outreach Officer at The Day Centre
<b>Young Person – 2 Focus Groups</b> (held on 13 February 2024)	9 people attended on the day	Facilitated by Berry Youth Centre

## 5.2 Public survey

A survey was created to gather feedback on health and wellbeing in Berinsfield to support outreach and participation from the wider community. The survey was produced in both electronic (online) and hard copy formats, with the provision of alternative methods to be made available on request. The survey was launched on 20 September 2023 and included questions on what kind of services, organisations and people in the community support health and wellbeing, what causes the biggest problems/barriers to people's health and wellbeing and what would help improve these.

The survey was originally due to close at 10am on Friday 27 October 2023. But due to the launch of the Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan, which includes details of the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing project, the engagement period was extended for a further week and closed at 10am on Friday 3 November 2023. A copy of the survey can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Many partners helped to promote the survey through their own newsletters, social media, and websites.

A press release and social media messages (Facebook, X, and Instagram) were posted throughout the live period. A news article was also placed in the local Berinsfield Village Voice newsletter, which is delivered to all households in Berinsfield. Publicity was also shared on the Spotted Berinsfield Facebook page. The survey was also on the agenda at a range of meetings including the October Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group and the Berinsfield Community Network meeting.

The survey was emailed to a variety of stakeholders asking them to help promote the survey amongst service users and staff. These included:

- Oxfordshire County Council
- Soha
- The Berin Centre
- Berinsfield Community Association
- Abbey Sports Centre/GLL
- Berinsfield Parish Council
- Berinsfield Library
- Berinsfield Health Centre
- Social Prescribers
- St Mary & St Berin Church
- Christians Against Poverty
- Local employers
- Abbey Woods Academy
- Riverside Counselling Service
- Berry Youth Centre
- YoCO
- South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council Ward Member for Berinsfield
- Resident representatives on the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group.

A more targeted approach was developed to maximise responses from harder-to-reach groups including SODC officers promoting the survey at a Stay Well Saturday event on 21 October 2023 where free swimming vouchers for adults and children were distributed to those who completed the survey and their immediate family who were present at the event. The Community Outreach Officer in Berinsfield actively promoted the survey to the community, including to vulnerable people and the Youth Centre actively engaged with young people to encourage and support them to complete the survey so that their views were captured.

For residents that did not have access to the internet or preferred a paper version, hard copies of the online survey were made available in community buildings (Library, Leisure Centre, Berinsfield Community Association, The Berin Centre, and Berry Youth Centre). Publicity posters were developed and displayed at these venues, with QR codes to encourage electronic submissions too. Completed paper surveys were collected from these venues and the responses manually recorded.

### 5.2.1 Respondents demographic breakdown

There was a total of 61 survey responses from adults and 34 survey responses from young people and the demographic breakdown of respondents is shown in the tables below.

*Table 2 Demographics of SODC survey respondents (adults)*

Survey question	Percentage of Respondents
<b>What is your connection to Berinsfield village? Tick all that apply.</b>	
I live in the village	80%
I work in Berinsfield	16%
I live outside of the village	5%
I regularly visit the village	5%
I have an interest in the area	3%
<b>What gender are you?</b>	
Female	79%
Male	18%
Prefer not to answer this question	4%

Survey question	Percentage of Respondents
<b>Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?</b>	
Yes	93%
Other	3%
Prefer not to answer this question	3%
<b>How old are you?</b>	
16-24	2%
25-34	24%
35-44	28%
45-54	16%
55-64	10%
65-74	13%
75+	5%
<b>What is your ethnic group?</b>	
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British	89%
White: Irish	0%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2%
White: Roma	0%
White: Any other White Background	7%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	0%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	2%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0%
Asian: Any other Asian background	0%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African: Caribbean	0%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African: African	0%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African: Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background	0%

Survey question	Percentage of Respondents
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Black Caribbean	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Black African	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Asian	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: Any other Mixed or Multiple Background	0%
Other Ethnic Group: Arab	0%
Other Ethnic Group: Other	0%
<b>Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illness lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?</b>	
Yes	39%
No	52%
Prefer not to say	8%
<b>Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?</b>	
Yes, a lot	22%
Yes, a little	61%
Not at all	17%

Table 3 Demographics of SODC survey respondents (young people)

Survey question	Percentage of Respondents
<b>What is your connection to Berinsfield village? Tick all that apply.</b>	
I live in the village	91%
I work in Berinsfield	0%
I live outside of the village	9%
I regularly visit the village	0%
I have an interest in the area	0%
<b>What gender are you?</b>	
Female	49%

Survey question	Percentage of Respondents
Male	40%
Prefer not to answer this question	6%
<b>Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?</b>	
Yes	83%
Other	0%
Prefer not to answer this question	11%
<b>What is your ethnic group?</b>	
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British	62%
White: Irish	0%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	6%
White: Roma	0%
White: Any other White Background	6%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	6%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	3%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	6%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0%
Asian: Any other Asian background	0%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African: Caribbean	0%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African: African	0%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African: Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Black Caribbean	6%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Black African	6%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Asian	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups: Any other Mixed or Multiple Background	0%
Other Ethnic Group: Arab	0%
Other Ethnic Group: Other	0%



Survey question	Percentage of Respondents
<b>Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illness lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?</b>	
Yes	33%
No	39%
Prefer not to say	22%
<b>Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?</b>	
Yes, a lot	15%
Yes, a little	44%
Not at all	38%

### 5.3 Limitations

Research was carried out between July and early November 2023 and therefore offers a snapshot in time of people's experiences of health and wellbeing.

The research focused on the experience of those living in Berinsfield village. However, the engagement and survey also captured the views of those who live outside the village and may work, visit, or have an interest in the village;

- ✓ 87% of adult responders were answering the survey as an individual/member of the public and 80% of lived in Berinsfield village; and
- ✓ 91% of young people responding to the survey lived in Berinsfield village.
- ✓ However, all focus groups were held and promoted heavily in the village and all 14 1:1 interviews and 4 case studies were undertaken with residents.

Acknowledgement is given to potential bias as some of the researchers and participants are members of the community themselves and therefore have a vested interest.

This work was supported by the Health and Wellbeing Group, which included local residents attending in various capacities, some just as resident participants (3), others as part of a local group and the Chair who also leads the local Youth group.

One of the volunteer youth workers works for SODC on the Garden Communities team and the Community Outreach Worker employed by The Berin Centre (a joint post with SODC), also resides in Berinsfield.

The potential for bias from project and engagement officer's from SODC during the analysis of research results was also identified. This may be a result of the merging of semantic and latent themes as a

result of personal insight while working with or lived experience from living within the Berinsfield community.

SODC commissioned a consultant to undertake an independent desktop review of quantitative and qualitative data and information to

## 6 Discussion of findings

This section presents a discussion of key themes arising from the different strands of research carried out as part of this project. The information presented is from research with adults, young people as well as local organisations. Anonymised quotes and case studies are also presented to offer illustrations supporting the ideas shared.

### 6.1 Organisations, groups, and services

There are a range of groups and activities operating in Berinsfield that support peoples' health and wellbeing. A summary of organisations identified through the stakeholder mapping can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Bi-monthly Berinsfield Community Network meetings are organised by The Berin Centre for local services to share information and promote partnership working and collaboration.

A local online calendar displaying group activities, services and events is uploaded and all groups are provided with access to promote it on their own network channels. It is currently hosted on the Parish Council website.

There are also many low and no cost activities available across the village for members of the community to access (some of these subsidised by voluntary and community sector organisations, SODC

support the production of this report to create an impartial report and recommendations to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest.

Throughout the project and analysis process, data has also been shared with OCC's public health team to ensure transparency.

and OCC). These are set out in the table in **Appendix 1**. Respondents to the survey specifically mentioned some of the organised community events as being strengths of living in Berinsfield:

*"I wouldn't have participated in the cake sale without the community outreach officer — it was good, and we had a laugh".*

*"Community activities help one stay active: seated exercise class; health walks around the village; the Memory Café, croquet & lawn games".*



Figure 7 Photos showing a selection of community activities in Berinsfield.

## 6.2 Usage and access to local services

As part of the SODC survey participants were asked *'What local services do you use regularly, this could be social groups, fitness activities, local services, and organisations.'*

A total of 37 comments were received from adults to this question with 23 of them mentioning using more than one service. The most common services mentioned, are listed in Table 4 below:



Table 4 Usage of local services (adult survey responders)

Local Service	Number of Responses
Local shops	13
Abbey Sports Centre	13
The Berin Centre/ The Berin Centre Groups	12
Library	8
Health Centre	7
Church	5
Berinsfield Community Association and its events	5
None/NA	5
Pharmacy	3
Dentist	3
Recreational Park/ open spaces/Park Gym equipment	3
Community Larder (hosted at The Berin Centre)	3
Wet & Wild /The Wandering Kitchen Café	3
Book Club	2
Buses	2
Preschool	2
Coffee & memory days (hosted at the Church)	1
Seated exercise (hosted at the Church)	1
You Move weekly walks	1
Primary school	1
Berry Youth Centre	1
Computer day	1
Helping a bit @ bot group	1

The most common services mentioned by young people, are listed in the table below. *(Please note that 28 of the 34 responses from young people were received at the Berry Youth Centre).*

*Table 4: Usage of local services (young people survey responders)*

<b>Local Service</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Youth Centre	30
Park (skateboard)	18
Football	17
Shops	15
Recreational grounds	13
Leisure Centre	10
Mushroom (outdoor youth shelter)	9
Health Centre	7
Berinsfield Community Association	6
Boxing	5
Gymnastics	4
Queensford lakes in Summer	3
Library	3
Blue Bridge in Summer	3
Scouts	2
The Berin Centre	1
Church	1
Hairdressers	1

Through a variety of different interviews, there was a strong consensus that there was a lot on offer locally:

*“Strengths are the local services”.*

*“Ticks all the boxes – property value is affordable and good local services – GP, Leisure Centre, Library, Pharmacy, football, gymnastics club and youth club”.*

*“Good facilities - The Berin Centre, family and friends, local social club (BCA), sports centre, church tea and coffee and services, field, and recreational park”*

*“Services are excellent”.*

*“I cannot afford to use the Leisure Centre”.*

*“Leisure Centre needs more support - there are no classes at the moment due to lack of staff”.*

*“Need for things for younger kids – under 5’s and over 18’s.”*

*“Lots of informal dog walking groups. The field isn’t used to its full capacity”.*

Other comments raised through interviews also highlighted barriers to accessing services due to personal circumstances, motivation, or time capacity.

*“Used to go to sports centre - lack of time now”.*

*“Well, I don’t really participate in anything in the community. This is because I have my own life and don’t need to use these facilities.”*

*“Clubs are too cliquy – am vision impaired and prevents me too much”.*

*“Yes – used to use the gym but it’s boring. Prefer to be outside”.*

*“It is a bit empty, not much going on for me- 35-year-old single guy. Not many shops like in other places, no nightlife”.*

It should be noted that in the survey, that three respondents commented on issues that relate to barriers or inability to access services. This is also aligned to comments raised in interviews.

### 6.3 Berinsfield as a place to live

Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three things they like about Berinsfield village. Most (70%) selected green spaces, closely followed by community facilities and activities (69%). Local family and friends (57%) and access to local services (54%) were also frequently mentioned.

It should be noted that respondents were also able to choose 'other' as an option. Seven comments were positive about the people and community itself and six comments related to likely the geographical location and facilities.

General positive comments were also received in a high proportion of interviews, that supported many feeling that residents have local choice of community facilities, services and activities and community spirit.

*“Friendly people operating local services e.g., church, The Berin Centre, Library.”*

*“Lots of community groups.”*

*“The Community Spirit, especially the BCA.”*

*“It's safe, everyone knows each other, there is always someone to chat too, I'm never alone. We have been well supported in times of need”.*



*Figure 8 Photos of greenspaces in and around Berinsfield*

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### I feel I am part of the local community

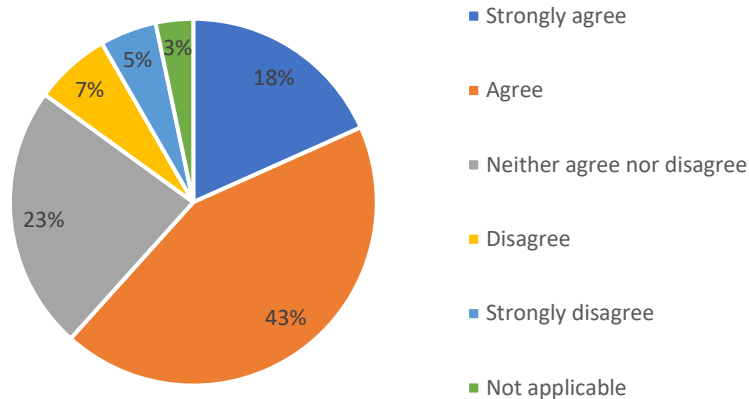


Figure 9 Chart showing survey responses to 'I am part of the community'.

Identified in the survey were a portion of residents that disagreed with the statement, alongside other anecdotal evidence from interviews which illustrates some concerns with feeling part of the community. Feedback collected in interviews mentioned circumstances of personal discrimination. Improving community cohesion through bringing people together will need to be explored further.

*“When I first came here it was like a holiday park, everybody knew one another!”*

*“Good services and community spirit (people) are sociable”.*

*“Incredible sense of community”*

*“We love the people; we really feel part of the lovely community. Our grown-up children love to visit with our grandchildren”.*

A significant proportion (61%) of the community feel they’re part of the local community. Through in-depth interviews, it was clear by the abundance of positive comments, the perception of the sense of community:

Some comments were also raised by young people, in relation to feeling part of the community. Despite 61% of young people indicating they felt part of the community, comments which disagreed with the statement, mainly shared disappointment around equality and feeling listened to.



*“People need to be listening to young people more and not disregard their views - we have some good ideas”.*

*I liked contributing to youth council and the older people listening”.*

*“There are lots of people who are not very nice to me which makes me feel nervous walking around the village”.*

*“Being coloured in a mostly white community has had its challenges, it’s easier now I am older and more accepted.”*

*“Racial bullying to the whole family by other children”*

## **CASE STUDY A – CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY**

‘A’ moved to Berinsfield several years ago and is originally from overseas. After years of feeling like an outsider she has recently started talking to people in the community instead of just passing by, finding it easier to chat to fellow dog owners, learning that many people use Berinsfield to walk the dogs from the surrounding villages. These long walks in nature really help ‘A’ to feel well physically and mentally, “they are my way of clearing my mind, giving me the space to calm down if I am angry or after a stressful day at work.”

The ladies’ multi-cultural group has given ‘A’ a sense of belonging. “I am starting to make friendships that I have never had before, this helps with my mental health, it’s great to meet like-minded people.”

Commuting to work is challenging for ‘A’, she has struggled to find local job opportunities and finds public transport very limiting. Although ‘A’ does have a gym membership, she would rather use the facilities as a drop-in and not have to use the booking system or be restricted by timings.

‘A’ would like to see more multi faith activities in Berinsfield and the introduction of cycle routes and public transport coming through the village as the bus stops are a long way from her home. ‘A’ feels a cafe/coffee shop and cinema would be welcome services to the community, run by friendly people.

## 6.4 Physical and mental wellbeing

The survey asked a series of question about physical and mental wellbeing, to try to explore the topics with participants.

The questions looked to understand respondents' general perception of their own physical and mental wellbeing, the current issues affecting personal wellbeing, what they do to stay healthy and what the possible barriers or challenges are to doing so.

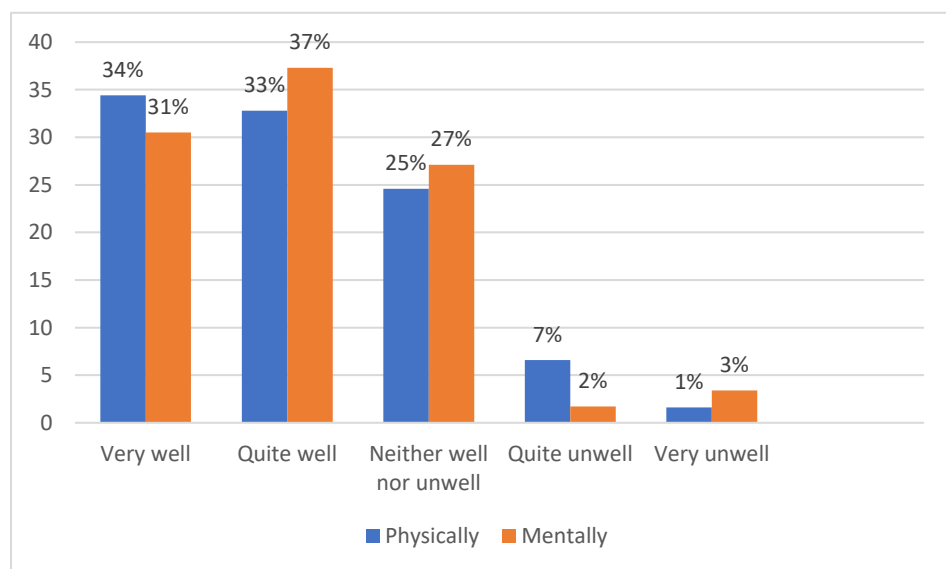


Figure 10 Bar graph illustrating adult responses to self-reported physical and mental wellbeing

Of adult respondents 34% reported feeling physically very well, 33% reported feeling quite well, whilst 7% quite unwell and 1% very unwell.

Respondents were also asked how mentally well they consider themselves to be, of adult respondents 37% feel quite well and 31% feeling very well. 5% consider themselves to be very unwell (3%) and quite unwell (2%).

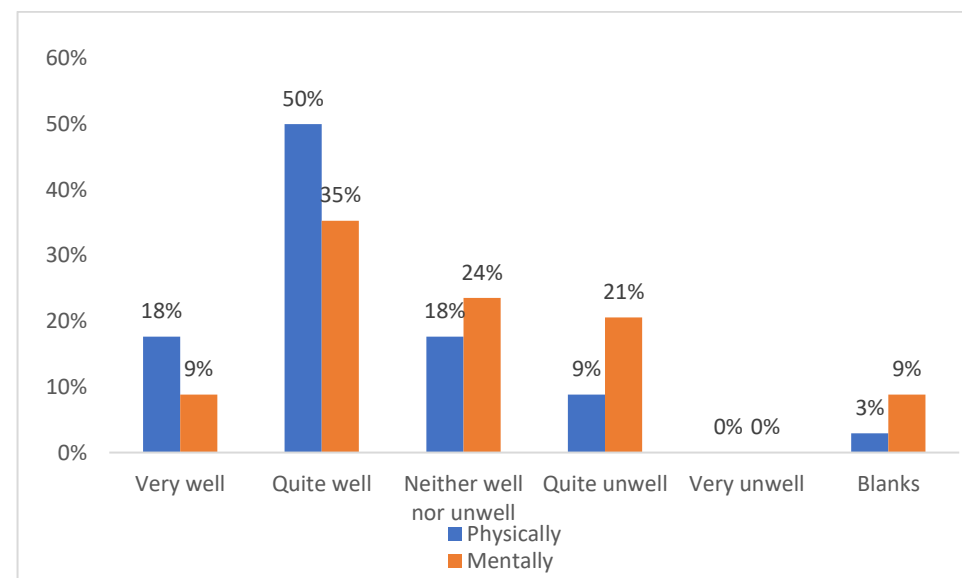


Figure 11 Bar graph illustrating young person responses to self-reported physical and mental wellbeing

As can be seen in the graphs above, adult and young people's responses differed with a higher proportion of young people feeling mentally unwell. This may benefit from being explored further through future engagement.

Of young respondents that answered this question, 50% reported they feel physically quite well, whilst 18% feel very well and 18% feel neither well nor unwell. 9% felt quite unwell. Young respondents were also asked how mentally well they consider themselves to be, with 35% selecting feeling quite well, 24% feeling neither well nor unwell, 21% feeling quite unwell and 9% feeling very well.

The data demonstrates how emotional and mental health challenges are much more prevalent than physical ones for the young people of Berinsfield than adults, which is echoed in their commentary. Similar consensus was shared in interviews with organisations, that highlighted the increased presence of poor mental health being experienced by services users and employees.

*“There are a lot of mental health issues. – Anxiety and depression. The company signpost and have a mental health first aider on site. They refer to Riverside and CAB. There is social isolation particularly for young men with no transport.”*

*“A lot of low level mental ill health – depression and low mood”*

*“The recent suicides permeated the community and affected people's mental health.”*

## 6.5 Enablers of health and wellbeing

In exploring what helps residents stay physically and mentally well, most adult respondents (72%) said spending time outdoors or in nature helps, closely followed by taking part in physical activity and movement (70%). Other frequent answers were having a daily routine and structure (56%), a healthy and balanced diet (48%), strong social support network and relationships (46%) and taking part in an activity or work that you feel is meaningful (46%).

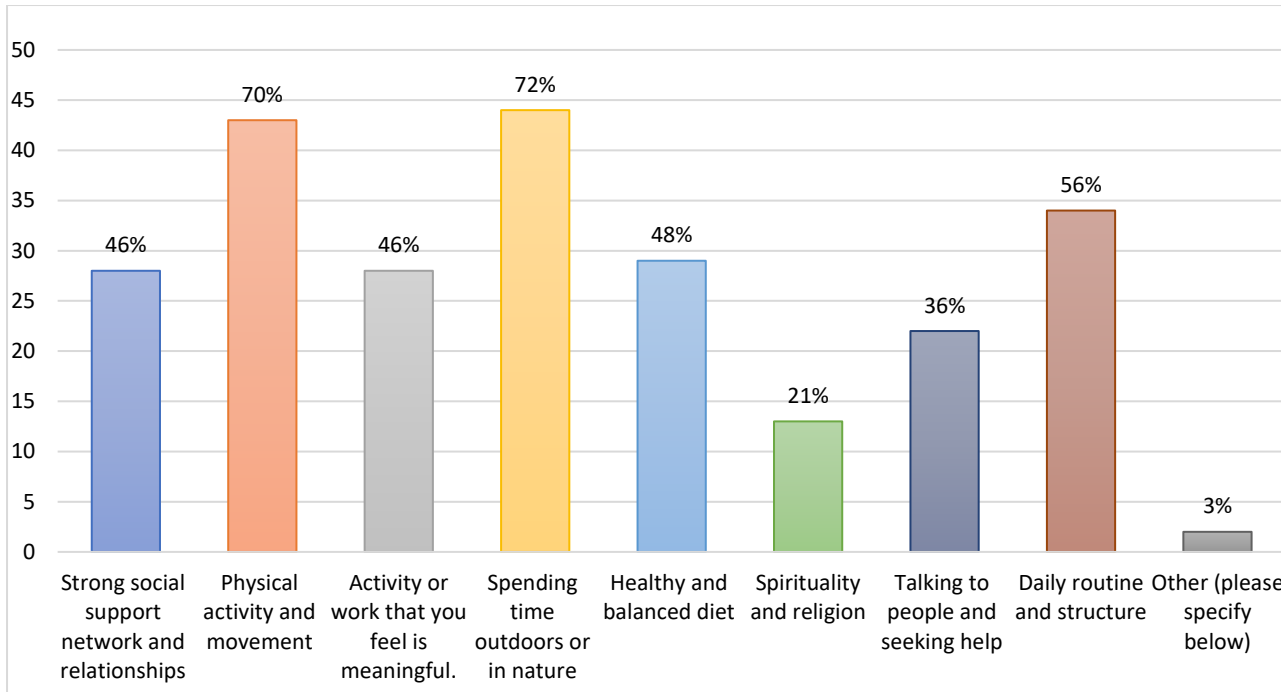


Figure 12 Bar graph to illustrate how adult respondents stay physically and mentally well

Other comments included in the survey and captured in interviews, provide a range of responses as to how residents stay physically and mentally well.

*“Hygiene and cleanliness.”*

*“My friends and family, they are a huge support structure to me.”*

*“Well, I go to church, I attend all my hospital appointments, I spend time doing the things I love, like reading and sewing. Talking to my friends and family. Preparing healthy home cooked foods. I come to the ladies evening. We go to the quiz nights and get involved with helping where we can. Reading the Bible and praying also keeps me strong mentally”.*

Most young respondents (85%) said strong social support network and another 85% selected talking to people and seeking help supported their physically and mental wellbeing. Other frequent answers were healthy and balanced diet (71%), physical activity and movement (65%), daily routine and structure (53%) and activity or work that you feel is meaningful (50%).

A total of **11** comments were received. The most frequently mentioned (7) were activities and events including football, extra activities as shown below:

*“I like the summer fair. It’s nice to be able to walk to something on your doorstep having purpose and being listened to” and another commenting “Being able to see mates everyday outside of college”.*

*More support for isolated people particularly with mental health/anxiety and with housebound patients is needed.”*

The other comments were on the Youth Centre and/or support required with the following comments:

*“Being able to talk about anything at youth club and not being judged and getting the correct advice (especially relationship advice)”*

*“I like having staff like youth workers that are constantly available”.*

*“Having a place, we belong without no judgement”.*

*“Support youth workers and school”.*

## 6.6 Challenges and barriers to staying physically and mentally well

One of the main factors that affect health negatively is the cost of living and long-term deprivation. We define poverty as the conditions where financial stress limits the mental, financial, and physical capacity to access the opportunities that help people flourish.

Deprivation can unfairly prevent people from eating enough food or accessing good quality food. High costs may prevent people from cooking and running household appliances. Staying physically active may come with associated costs that can exclude people in poverty.

Deprivation also impacts mental wellbeing due to the constant stress of securing stable warmth, shelter, and food. And we know that more people in Oxfordshire are feeling the pressures of debt, maintaining

their home, providing for children, and affording food – all of this can contribute to serious mental and physical health conditions.<sup>1</sup>

Almost half of adult respondents (48%) to the survey feel ‘cost and affordability’ is one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well, closely followed by personal motivation (44%). Other frequent answers include health issues (23%) and lack of transport (16%).

*“Getting the benefits that we are entitled to is difficult”.*

*“Accessing facilities (gym etc) can be hard due to cost and lack of childcare”.*

*“If the sports centre had a crèche that would be amazing”.*

A total of **10** comments were received to this question. The most frequently mentioned comments (**3**) included specific barriers to services and the next most popular response (**2**) were people experiencing a range of complex barriers which included health/physical challenges.

<sup>1</sup> ONS, Office for National Statistics. Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics in England, 2023 (2022 data). Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. [Online] 28th Feb 2023.

*“Personal motivation - following COVID-19, lack of access to the internet - personal issue with connection at home, health issues - I wish I could just get better!”.*

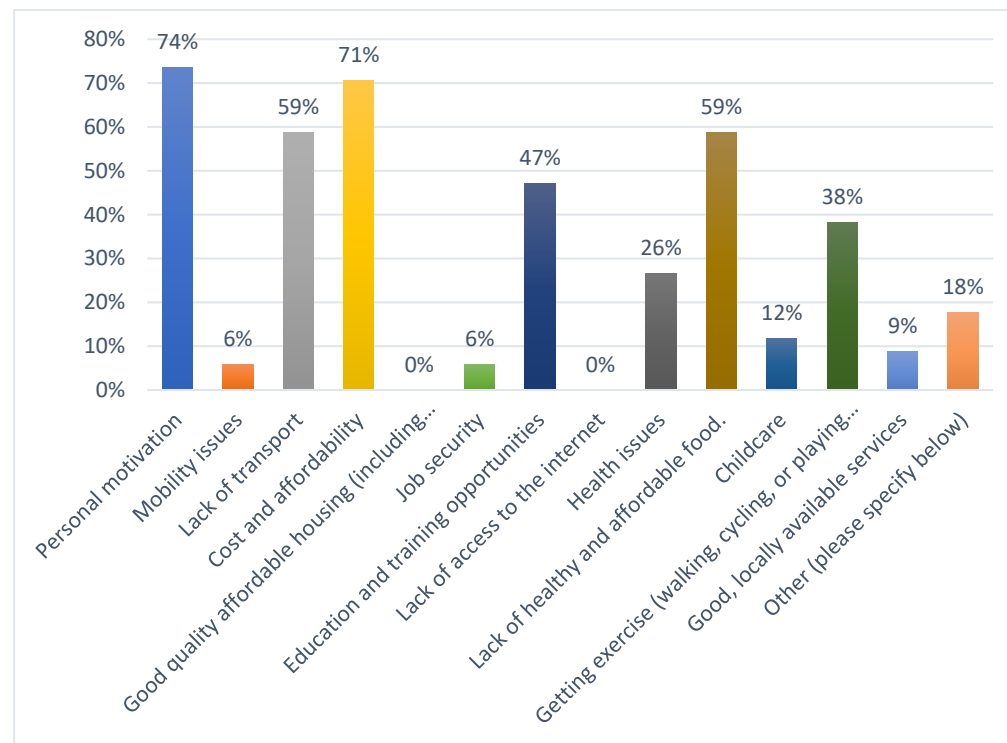


Figure 13 Bar graph illustrating adult responses to challenges to staying healthy.

Other responses received were related to poor/inadequate housing (1) *“Some of the housing available is poor quality i.e., mould - needs lots of work”* and social constraints (1) commenting *“The fact step out your door without someone judging you”*. The other responses were related to transport (1) stating that *“We absolutely need safe cycling links to neighbouring villages and to the city”*, a general response to the question (1) with the comment being *“Working together”*.

Nearly three quarters of young respondents (74%) feel personal motivation is one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well, closely followed by cost and affordability (71%). Other frequent answers include lack of transport (59%) and lack of healthy and affordable food (59%). 47% of respondents also selected education and training opportunities.

A total of 10 comments were received. The most frequently received comments (5) were to do with family dynamics with the following being mentioned:

*“Dad keeps having to move away for jobs which makes me sad”.*

*“Conflict with siblings”*

*“My mum struggles as she is on her own and I have 3 other siblings that need supporting”.*

Other frequent comments (2) are education related with one a responder saying that they have ADHD and another commenting *“Mainstream school and lack of alternative education”*. The other comments (2) relate to a lack of transport with one responder commenting *“Steet Dance Outside of Berinsfield”*.

Similar feedback was also received during interviews with residents, with comments referring to the increase cost of living, lack of transport and poor bus connections. Digital isolation and a need for improved ways of communication was also raised.

*“Transport is a big issue for me and money”.*

*“With the cost of living, even Council-led cheaper swim activities are out of reach”.*

*“Transport in general is the biggest challenge, for me and for the oldies like my Mum, she can’t get to the clubs and activities that are put on and she would love to. I get her to bingo on a Sunday at the BCA but I’m working during the week, so she just stays at home. Which is a shame.”*

*“Commuting to work because it's very difficult to find a job locally. Public transport is very limited, and the bus stops are too far away for Oxford and Reading.”*

Within the focus groups conducted with young people there were informal discussions centred around cross-cutting themes which included mental health and wellness in relation to money, climate change, nature, or money in relation to opportunity, experience.

ADHD/Autism spectrum disorders were prominently discussed, both in recognition of its prevalence among them in the village and the wait for diagnosis and treatment. Delayed diagnosis or undiagnosed medical disabilities could be considered as a barrier to health and wellbeing. The young people shared their frustration at how they are treated or misunderstood once diagnosis is received.

Interviews with organisations were also conducted to understand their perception of the health and wellbeing of service users they work closely with.

The question was posed around potential barriers they feel may impact their services users improved physical and mental wellbeing. There were commonalities identified from the views shared by residents, particularly, shared opinions around the impact of the cost of living, poor transport leading to inaccessibility of services and reduction in other opportunities (personal and vocational).

Clear indications were given by those working directly to support residents that demand has increased, and they have concerns over dependency on services. However, anecdotally some felt historic and cultural barriers led to residents not accessing help or services. Such

suggestions included misconception of a service, the ability to be able to access it and generational/personal opinions.

*“Poverty makes everything hard. People don’t have choices – need to find a way for people to be able to make choices.”*

*“They feel isolated in the village and are sometimes drawn into undesirable and unhelpful situations”.*

*“People may report things anonymously through the various channels but are generally reluctant to talk face to face over community issues”.*

*“The village is a small community, and many people are interlinked and know each other, and this can cause issues but can also be very supportive”.*

*“There is a stigma around getting mental health support and so people do not always access the services on offer.”*



*“A generation is being bought up on phones, so it is a challenge to get them involved with other activities”.*

*“They feel isolated in the village and are sometimes drawn into undesirable and unhelpful situations”.*

*“The housing is not always appropriate for young men, so they must stay within the family home or rent a room. Their life experiences so far do not lead to feelings of confidence and independence and taking responsibility.”*

*“We need to go where people are and people often need support to go to a group. Then there can be an issue of creating dependency.”*

*“Having transport to activities helps even within the village. - the day centre works well because they have transport”.*

## 6.7 Loneliness and isolation

Feelings of loneliness were reported more by the adult respondents. Of adult respondents (38%) feel lonely sometimes, followed by 30% who rarely feel lonely, whilst 13% never feel lonely.

A total of **8** comments were received to this question. The most frequently mentioned comments (**3**) included ideas for reducing loneliness including craft classes, parenting classes, more church and day activities, workshop space and working together.

The next frequently mentioned comments were related to positive relationships/social contact including always having someone around (**2**).

Other comments that negatively linked to the sense of loneliness and isolation included: *“Berinsfield isn’t really a great place”* and *“miss my children”*.

Similar results were received by young respondents with most of them (33%) reporting rarely feeling lonely, followed by 24% who feel lonely sometimes. 18% of respondents selecting ‘I don’t know/not applicable’, whilst 12% say that they feel lonely most of the time and another 12% never feel lonely.

The most frequently mentioned comments (4) for young people outlined reasons for loneliness and/or feeling a level of anxiety or stress. The comments were illustrative of a wide range of social and behavioural issues that affect young people, ranging from peer pressure, the ever-present social media issue, and younger carers.

*“Sometimes there is too much to handle with school, friends and social media”.*

*“I feel I am different from others”.*

*“Constant pressure”.*

*“I am the eldest and have to look after my young siblings some of my friends don’t have to do this”.*

When asked, what would help participants to feel less lonely, a total of **18** comments were received to this question by adults. The most frequently mentioned comments (**8**) were a range of ideas for services, groups, events, and places to meet. Suggestions included a cafe, community space with pet friendly outdoor areas, places to meet in the village, more groups including for children, a greater variety of services both online and in person support groups for different things such as hobbies organised trips/shops, designated events for older (but still young) men and women to be held in sociable hours including the afternoon and evenings and film nights. One person mentioned that there are no support groups in Oxfordshire for people who have a stoma.

*“More groups like multicultural ladies’ evenings. Most social places don’t feel approachable as a single woman, and I don’t want to meet people through alcohol. Common interests are a much better way but most things I can’t afford”.*

*“Events like the Beri fest or other community events, like the summer carnival, a yearly beer festival for instance. A time to bring everyone together.”*

The next frequently mentioned comments (**7**) were related to social connection including with family/friends. Comments included *“Having people around to talk too”*, *“Making friends and finding a shared hobby”* and *“FaceTime my family”*.

Throughout the interviews and focus groups with residents, similar suggestions were made:

*“Places to go and socialise, more groups to learn new things and make new friends”. A supported exercise group for younger people that isn’t too hard. Community events, car boot sales, markets, stuff at the weekend when it is quiet and lonely.”*

## 6.8 Healthy food and eating

Almost three quarters of adult respondents (72%) agree or strongly agree that they maintain healthy lifestyle habits around food and eating and 12% disagree. 75% agree they have access to affordable and healthy food options, whilst 14% expressed not having access to the same. 39% of adult participants would value information and support about healthy food and eating habits.

A total of **6** comments were received to this question from adult respondents. The most frequently mentioned comments (**3**) were suggestions on how to support healthy eating habits including, education on healthy eating and food, cooking groups, access to healthy food, and SOFEA Larder to provide better items. A handful of comments also referred to the need for an alternative food shop in the village, as the existing one was seen as good quality but expensive. These views were shared in the focus groups as well.

*“It takes a lot of time and effort to access healthy food I can afford”.*

*“Growing my own tomatoes and eating them!”*

Only 24% of young participants agreed that they had access to healthy food options, with a higher proportion young participants (38%) indicating that they neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement while a further 24% disagreed.

*“It would be nice to have the chance to learn about food/cooking”.*

*“We have to make the most out of what we got - we get food bank”.*

*“Fast food/meal deals are easier to get and cheaper”.*

*“I like to grow my own vegetables with mum - I am vegan and like to be aware of what I am eating”.*

Access to food locally is limited to two convenience stores and a small supermarket. A wider range of foods is available in the vicinity at larger superstores but requires transport to access them. Locally grown, fresh produce is hard to locate, although there are opportunities for growing food at the local allotment site to the north of the village (which is at full capacity) and access to a small community garden. The nearest farm produce retail facility at the Crazy Bear (4 miles away) is extremely high-end and expensive.

*“We eat organically which was very hard when I had to start relying on food bank food which was all processed junk and tins. We did appreciate this, but it had effects on our bodies as I have always maintained a clean and chemical free diet for me and my girls”.*

## 6.9 Feelings of safety

Most adult respondents (85%) reported feeling very safe (56%) or safe (29%) during the day in Berinsfield village compared to only 52% at night. 2% feel not very safe during the day. We also asked respondents how safe they feel at night, over half of respondents 52% feel safe (35%) and very safe (17%). A considerable number of respondents 25% feel mostly safe at night. However, 21% do not feel safe, 13% expressed feeling not very safe and 8% feeling not safe at all.

A total of **8** comments were received to this question. The most frequently mentioned comments (**7**) were related to improvements which people felt could be made - such as lighting, policing, dealing with drugs and alcohol and better engagement with residents. These comments included the following:

*“I feel safe after dark until around 8.30pm/9pm. Then I am not out anyway. I am more alert after dark and I don't use the alley ways alone night or day”.*

*“Need more lights around dark areas on the field and pathways”.*

*“Have more police day and night - have some where the older teenagers can go”.*

9% of young respondents reported they felt very safe during the day, 41% felt safe, 15% reported they felt mostly safe and 12% not very safe. We also asked respondents how safe they feel at night and only 6% of young people reported feeling very safe, 32% felt safe, 12% mostly safe and 24% not very safe.

A total of **7** comments were received. The most frequently mentioned comments (**2**) were related to other people's behaviours with respondents saying:

*“A lot of the time trouble/fights happen at night”.*

*“Other people I do not get on with and do not want to see”.*

Other comments included:

*“My parents let me go to the field by myself as they know where I am and that it is looked on by other houses”.*

*“It’s nice to hang outside in the summer as the weather is good but gets harder when it gets darker and colder my parents worry”.*

*“I rather stay indoors at night and play on Xbox”.*

During interviews with organisations, it emerged that there may be a changing perception relating to community safety.

*“Berinsfield has improved and it much calmer than it used to be. It is much more diverse that it used to be.”*

*“The village should be celebrated for all the facilities and activity. Too often only bad press is communicated.”*

Organisations also shared issues related to community safety that they have identified:

*“Some parents need support to prevent anti-social behaviours – not just teenagers.”*

*“People are reluctant to report anti-social or criminal behaviour and so this skews data even though the police know that this activity takes place.”*

*“People’s perception of young people is them being potentially intimidating and loud”.*

*“There are generations in the village, people do not necessarily move away, and this can cause issues as attitudes are handed down”.*

## CASE STUDY B – FEELING SAFE

B is a young female living in a single parent household. B goes to secondary school in Abingdon with good attendance and is a member of several social groups in the surrounding villages/towns but doesn't attend any community events or groups in Berinsfield. B feels she has little to connect with in Berinsfield and her friendship group prefer to visit each other's homes where they feel safe. B feels that the most challenging part of living in Berinsfield is the poor bus service and lack of choice of places to get to independently.

B and her friends do have a membership with the Abbey Sports Centre and use the gym 2-3 times a week. B feels having good friends and a busy home life with a variety of activities keeps her well mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. B's friendship group are all from the same faith and often encourage each other to pray. Although B uses the gym and has friends locally, they can only identify the benefit of having shops and the Doctors surgery within Berinsfield and feels unable to identify any other strength(s).

B would love a bus service to Didcot and a safe place to visit for an activity such as bowling or cinema. Feeling safe is important to them and being reassured that those around them are good, honest people. "I often feel intimidated in Berinsfield by other residents".

### 6.10 Perceptions of smoking, vaping, alcohol, and drugs

This section of the survey gathered data on where people noticed that smoking, vaping, and consuming alcohol takes place in Berinsfield, to gain a better understanding on how to help support the community.

More than a third of all years lived with ill health and disability are caused by harmful exposure to tobacco, alcohol, or unhealthy weight<sup>2</sup>. The cause of these harmful exposures is not simply down to lifestyle choices but is heavily influenced by the environment that people live, work, and socialise in. This includes the lifestyles of those we live with,

the advertising we see all around us, the products marketed in shops, and the norms of society.

Most adult respondents (92%) indicated that they saw people smoking and vaping in Berinsfield. 74% reported observing alcohol consumption, whilst 24% have not seen this. 53% have witnessed people handling/consuming drugs in Berinsfield, but 37% have not.

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<sup>2</sup> G. Everest, L. Marshall et al, *Addressing the lead risk factors of ill health*, 2022. Online

Most young respondents (83%) see people smoking and vaping in Berinsfield. 71% have observed alcohol consumption, whilst 20% have not seen this. 57% have witnessed people handling or consuming drugs in Berinsfield, 20% have not and 20% responded that they did not know.

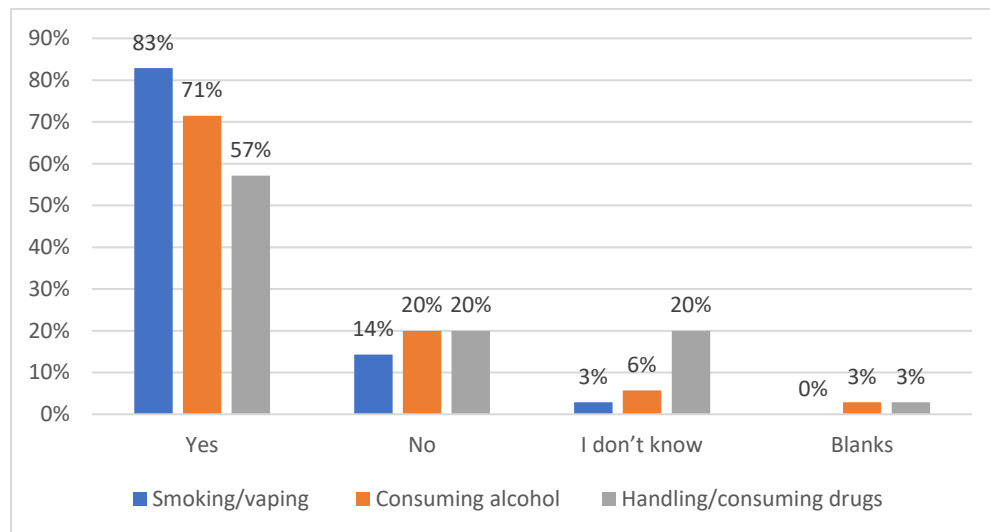


Figure 14 A bar graph illustrating young people's perception on witnessing smoking, vaping, and the consumption of alcohol and drugs

A total of **39** comments were received to this question with 19 of these giving more than one location where these lifestyle behaviours were observed. The locations and the frequency of comments are listed in the table below:

Table 5 Responses to location and frequency of witnessing lifestyle behaviours in Berinsfield.

Location	Number of comments
Everywhere /all areas /generally	18
Park(s) and skatepark area	12
Outside shops	10
Alleyways	7
Lay Avenue	4
Licensed premises	4
Woods/wooded area(s)	4
Community facilities area/central hub	3
Own homes/work	3
Bus stops/in the vicinity of bus stops	3
Car parks	3
My road/neighbours	2
The Spinney	2
The Green Lane towards Dorchester	2
Other	7

*“People dealing drugs don't care if they are seen, they do it in plain sight of everyone”.*

*“When we have our village walks. We try and do so daily and often [there are] many empty cans in our hedges and empty vape cylinders under hedges”.*

*“People doing drugs, people living in flats they shouldn't be, people drinking”.*

*“Needles in alley way by park at top of Lay Avenue”*

*“Berinsfield has changed over the years it isn't really a nice village to live in - if people aren't drinking and smashing bottles they're doing vapes and leaving them on the floor..and doing drugs”.*

### **CASE STUDY C – CHALLENGES**

'C' is a male recovering alcoholic. He feels safe in Berinsfield and gets great comfort from everyone knowing each other, he states that “he is never lonely because there is always someone to chat to and the kids are taken care of by everyone”. C feels he and his family have been well supported in times of need, using food banks occasionally and seeking advice from The Berin Centre when needed. C recognises that he has a long-term problem with alcoholism and seeks help from organisations such as Turning Point and the local GP surgery to combat this.

C is honest about not knowing much about what goes on locally as he prefers to stay home with mates but is pleased when local events happen, he especially likes anything going on at the weekend as “it can be quite dead at the weekends”. C recognises the benefit to meditation evenings, even though he would never attend this type of thing himself he likes them being available.

C appreciates having a leisure centre in the village but doesn't use it due to it being too expensive. C reports being as fit as he can be but relies on buses which add to the cost of travel and food.

C likes socialising but understands for him it means without alcohol. This is hard to overcome as his friends associate him with drinking and due to his mental health decline, he feels he needs the support of these friends. C is very open to working with people to overcome these challenges and would like to see more services for the younger generations to prevent others becoming dependent in the future, giving them skills to fix and make things. C is unsure of how, but he wants to get fit and healthy for his family.



## 6.11 Education, employment, and skills

80% of adult respondents feel they have the skills and or qualifications to find employment, 11% disagree and 9% strongly disagree (2% neither agreed nor disagreed). 42% of adult respondents also agreed that there are local opportunities to learn new skills and/or gain qualification, while 14% of participants disagreed. 41% of respondents indicated they can access local opportunities to learn new skills and/or gain qualifications while 22% of participants disagreed.

The most frequently mentioned comment around this was in relation to barriers in accessing learning, skills, and employment. Predominantly, this referred to disabilities, transport, and local schools.

*“More training and skills opportunities need to be made available at places where people feel comfortable in going”.*

35% of young respondents neither agreed nor disagreed that they had the skills to find employment. 15% agreed and 12% disagreed. 6% strongly agreed with the statement. 32% of respondents did not answer this question. 23% of young respondents agreed that there are local opportunities to learn new skills and/or gain qualifications and 11% disagreed with this statement. 6% strongly agreed. 31% of respondents did not answer this question. 20% of young respondents disagreed that they were able to access local opportunities and 17% agreed and 6% strongly agreed they were able to.

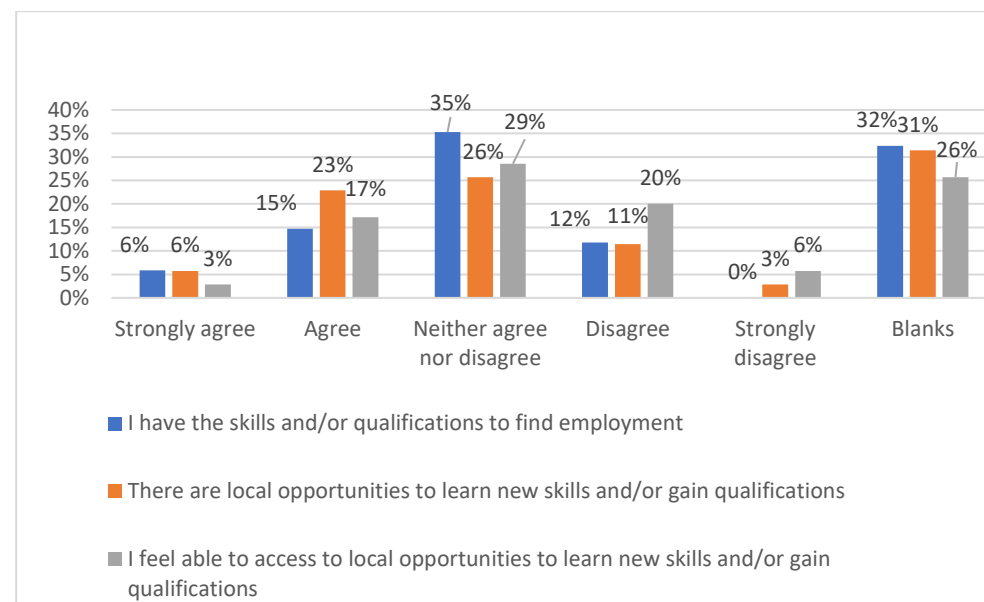


Figure 15 A bar graph illustrating young respondents' thoughts on skills and opportunities.

The consensus was also shared during focus groups with the young people. Whilst acknowledgement was given to the variety of opportunities locally, they felt they may not be able to access them.

Comments within the focus group included general comments that apart from the youth club, there was a lack of both informal and formal places/spaces for young people to congregate.

In addition, it was acknowledged that extracurricular clubs outside of school are hard to get to if you do not have parents with transport or cannot get the bus there.

Following the second focus group held with the young people to dive into emerging themes in more detail, comments included barriers to accessing apprenticeships locally and knowledge on how to apply. Agreement was shared within the group that if more practical skills courses were provided locally there would be more uptake due to likelihood of being able to get there and less risk of being demotivated due to it being on the doorstep. General comments were made in relation to difficulties with transport - further qualifications in a range of trades can only be accessed at the college in Blackbird Leys with the need to arrange private taxis for the young people so that they can attend.

*“I’m on a reduced timetable and alternative learning on certain days elsewhere. Getting there is long. If something was on the village, I’d rather go to that.”*

Another focus group, held with an intergenerational demographic, put forward key priorities for different themes. Answers shared as headline priorities included employment and supporting adults with learning disabilities or neurodiversity.

Through further analysis, in speaking to some of the local employers a range of barriers were mentioned in relation to accessing local employment opportunities. Comments included local staff having to move away from the village due to the lack of appropriate housing. It was noted there is also currently a skills gap for specialised work.

Some employers are providing apprentice opportunities, which have now advanced into permanent positions. It was also suggested that other employment opportunities should be brought to the village using some of the unused buildings. Various employers are also responsive to people’s needs and are open to changing work patterns to help employees access services to better their wellbeing and aspirations.

#### **CASE STUDY D – ACCESS TO MORE OPPORTUNITIES**

D is a young male with a lifelong disability who has lived with his family in Berinsfield all his life. D struggles to stay mentally well and spends a lot of time gaming due to his disability. He does volunteer when he feels physically and mentally strong enough and gains greatly from this. D has poor sleep hygiene and will often be awake until early hours of the morning, making it difficult to function the next day. D is well supported by his parents who cook healthy meals daily, sourced from local supermarkets. The lack of services to cater for his needs and interests as well as the lack of job opportunities locally are really challenging for D. He recognises that his friends, who are his support network are all moving with their lives.

He feels the Doctor's surgery is helpful and promotes independence for D. Most other places would require support to access independently. D feels that he has a lot to offer to the community and has his own dreams, which he wants to pursue. D feels that providing life changing opportunities and work opportunities for those less able and making it normal for those with disabilities to access education, transport and work opportunities will enhance everybody's health and wellbeing.

## 7 Community suggestions for improving health and wellbeing

Throughout the various engagement activities, respondents were given an opportunity to put forward suggestions of mechanisms, projects and activities that could improve the health and wellbeing of residents. These should be considered for future planning and further development of the Community Insight Profile Action Plan.

- ✓ Access and the opportunity to try different sports
- ✓ Access to healthy food
- ✓ Afternoon evening and film nights
- ✓ Alternative education and training opportunities on the village
- ✓ Community events
- ✓ Community space with pet friendly outdoor areas
- ✓ Craft classes
- ✓ Creche facilities
- ✓ Designated events for older young men and women open sociable hours
- ✓ Education, training, and skills opportunities available in different places
- ✓ Food cooking groups
- ✓ Greater variety of services including online
- ✓ Growing my own food
- ✓ Having health checks
- ✓ In person support groups for different things such as hobbies and interests
- ✓ Informal and formal spaces for young people
- ✓ More affordable gym membership
- ✓ More church and day activities
- ✓ More groups including for children
- ✓ Mother and toddler groups
- ✓ Organised trips
- ✓ Parenting classes
- ✓ Places to meet in the village
- ✓ Safer cycling links to villages and city
- ✓ Social connection to family and friends
- ✓ Support groups for issues
- ✓ Walking round the garden and being outside
- ✓ Workshop space and working together

*“Events are important for community spirit and bring people together it is important to have accessible and well-advertised sports provisions”.*

*“Events like the Beri fest or other community events, like the summer carnival, a yearly beer festival for instance. A time to bring everyone together”.*

## 8 Wider influential challenges to consider

The cost-of-living crisis has added considerable stress to household finances. Two thirds of Oxfordshire residents are in a worse financial situation than a year ago and one in six are regularly struggling to pay household bills. The rate of fuel poverty has increased by 50 per cent in the last year<sup>3</sup>.

It is not only our residents that are being affected by the rising costs – community organisations, businesses and public services have faced unimaginable and unprecedented challenges unseen in the UK for decades. We know the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the delivery of many local services, often leading to increased waiting times, or making access more difficult. Some services are still recovering from these impacts.

Data from January 2023 illustrates that in 2022, 157 clients from Berinsfield accessed the South and Vale Citizens Advice Service for. 49% of the clients were recorded as having long-term health

conditions and the presented with a range of issues as shown in the table below.

Society is facing challenges including an ageing population, and increased demand for services. Mental health and wellbeing remain a challenge, especially for families, children, and young people and this has been demonstrated in the results of the insight.

Some of the biggest threats facing us all currently include climate change, pollution, and rapid loss of biodiversity and the effects these have on our wellbeing. It was noted in the focus groups with young people that there was a potential lack of understanding on how climate change can affect health and the connection between mental health and nature. It may be considered important to explore educational awareness on the interlinking themes.

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<sup>3</sup> Oxfordshire County Council, *Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Oxfordshire, 2024 – 2030*. Pg 498. Online

## Issues

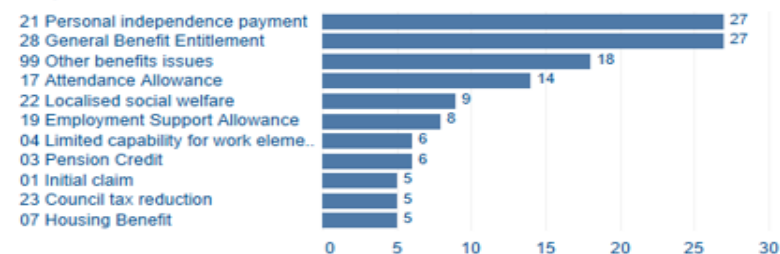
	Issues	Clients
Benefits & tax credits	127	39
Benefits Universal Credit	23	14
Charitable Support & Food Ban..	34	24
Consumer goods & services	7	5
Debt	55	17
Education	1	1
Employment	13	7
Financial services & capability	26	14
GVA & Hate Crime	2	2
Health & community care	5	3
Housing	22	13
Immigration & asylum	8	6
Legal	14	9
Other	114	63
Relationships & family	7	6
Tax	3	2
Travel & transport	6	5
Utilities & communications	14	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>481</b>	

Figure 16 Data table demonstrating the variety of CAB client referrals completed in 2022

### 8.1 Provision of health services

The breadth of encouraging feedback on accessing services locally was positive, and throughout the period of engaging, feedback was not received on any barriers nor issues in accessing local health services. We may consider that this could be the case because the questions were not directed on health services specifically, but anecdotal comments picked up referenced to the need for access to more local talking therapies rather than medication. Further exploration of this may wish to be considered.

### Top benefit issues



### Top debt issues

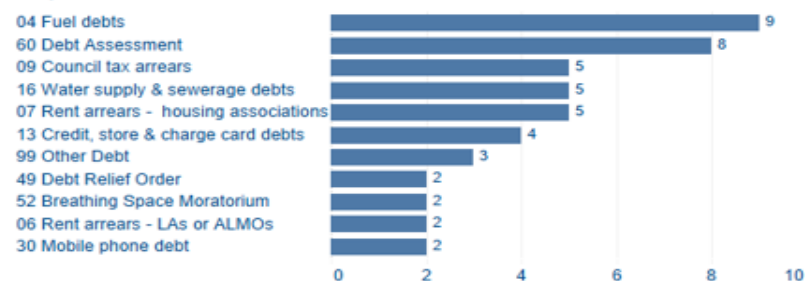


Figure 17 Tables showing variety of benefit and debt issues covered by CAB in 2022

### 8.2 Sustainable funding

Many public and third sector organisations have experienced a reduction in core funding over the last decade from central government. Funding and how to allocate over-stretched resources is an increasingly significant challenge which has caused councils and other organisations to change the way they deliver services to deliver savings and efficiencies.

As a result, grant funded programmes tend to be highly competitive, oversubscribed and often only short term or one-off with a tight

monitoring timescale. It often prescribes and influences projects or initiatives that are less preventative and more reactive towards the need and demand.

Funding was reported as a key concern for many voluntary and community organisations with the feeling that they are often

competing for the same pots of funding or fundraising from the same target audience.

## 9 Discussion of community priorities and recommendations for improving the health and wellbeing of Berinsfield

There's been a wealth of resident and stakeholder feedback, kindly shared by all the participants throughout the entire engagement process to help shape and inform the Community Insight Report. Considering the insights provided, recommendations on how to address and improve health inequalities or strengthen areas already benefitting the community are outlined below.

Throughout the process, working with the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing group and an independent consultant to review qualitative and quantitative data, an array of themes were identified as instrumental in underpinning the foundations of a multi-agency response to support Berinsfield. It is these recommendations and themes, that will support the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group in co-creating an action plan to agree steps on how to move forward.

### 9.1 Communication, Coordination and Coproduction

The importance of partnership working, and collaboration should be recognised as pivotal in providing a wraparound offer to the community. Communication and coordination should be paramount amongst different agencies, voluntary and community organisations

and residents. Continued communication outside survey periods will help to show that the community's voice matters not just when their opinion is officially required. This could take the form of focus groups, open sessions, workshops, social events, awareness, training, and education sessions especially around health and wellbeing, staying active and fit, healthy food sourcing, cooking, and eating.

It was clear from the assets mapping and wide-ranging feedback that there is lots of great community outreach and services taking place locally, which is held highly in the community's views. It is recommended that organisations may wish to consider other ways of working together, especially to address common issues and trends. Stakeholders should also build on the great foundations of the Community Network meeting, with focus being on addressing common issues and finding solutions such as volunteering, training, funding, and joint service delivery. External bodies and organisations should be strongly encouraged to bring discussions, projects, and programmes to local groups such as this.

Relations with local businesses and organisations could be improved. There are many third sector and charity organisations in Oxfordshire and Berinsfield could do more to attract them. Residents should know about the many services and opportunities available, and outreach partners should work together to advertise and support them.

Further development of the community calendar and finding more inclusive ways of sharing information with the community should be sought. Further exploration of engaging with hard-to-reach groups and attracting a wider more diverse audience is recommended. It may be that the Community Network meeting sees merit in economies of scale with other partners on a better way to market events and initiatives to residents. The reinstatement of the Village Voice newsletter could play a part in this. Whilst the focus is on a micro level, emphasis should be given that Berinsfield is a service hub to surrounding areas which also support the inclusive economy and sustainability of services.

## 9.2 Community activation and cohesion

We recommend that all agencies and organisations that provide outreach and community services leverage the strong ties and partnerships they have established with service users and the broader community. Participation in community activity from the village is already encouraging and residents report an increase in collaboration and cohesion which is already relatively strong in Berinsfield.

Community activation is very important to drive social transformation and could be a catalyst for softer interventions to support health and wellbeing. It supports us to make healthy choices in our daily lives and coaches' fun, inclusive and engaging activities that help whole

communities to change their behaviour, adapt and keep a healthy active lifestyle. It is recommended that this continues to play a critical part especially to support the connections between new and existing residents as new housing development proposals are developed.

Key partners may also wish to discuss how the roles of community development or outreach personnel can support organisations strategically to achieve joined up approaches and mend any historic gaps in the development of programmes and services locally.

## 9.3 Loneliness, identity and belonging

The Health and Wellbeing survey produced a wealth of suggestions from the community on how to tackle loneliness, identity, and community ownership and belonging. It is recommended that consideration should be given to the importance of existing community assets and the ability to futureproof and utilise these more effectively to tackle loneliness and enhance community belonging.

Informal and formal physical spaces and their relationship with the social fabric of the community is always important. The facility to host talks, show films, hold events in attractive and comfortable surroundings is a pre-requisite of strong social cohesion.

It is recommended that the steering group, building on the work already completed in the community facilities project should explore the usage of venues and where potential new or existing activity could be best located.

The report also observes that loneliness affects people from different backgrounds and ages in Berinsfield. It suggests that programmes that involve different generations are developed and introduced. Intergenerational activities can offer many advantages such as boosting self-confidence, reducing bias, and addressing social isolation and loneliness. Intergenerational work can help to foster the exchange of cultural traditions and values from older to younger generations and vice versa. Looking into these opportunities will also help with the problems related to discrimination.

#### 9.4 Healthy food and eating

According to the results of the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Survey, half of the younger village residents and up to two-thirds of the older, perceive themselves and their families to be maintaining healthy lifestyles around food. However, this is at variance slightly with the anecdotal evidence reported at The Berin Centre food larder, where some residents felt unaware of how to prepare and use such fresh food items.

The most frequently mentioned 'other comments' in this section of the survey were suggestions on how to support healthy eating habits including, education and better access to healthy eating and food, cooking groups and access to healthy food.

Given the relatively poor provision of fresh and non-processed food options in the immediate village environs it seems likely that there is room for improvement in healthy eating. The consumption of ultra-processed food is a national issue, and of course poor habits are

replicated everywhere. The solution to this is not easy, but by demonstrating the continuous rewards and positive effects on lifestyle outcomes should be embedded into future outreach.

It is recommended that education around the subject is key, supplemented with improved access to fresh and local produce. Initiatives might take the form of pop-ups, trial producers' markets, information at the health centre and surgery, courses offered at local organisations which teach healthy cooking and eating. It is not just awareness of the subject that could improve healthy eating but also practical opportunities to learn should also become available.

Communication and liaison to ensure this aspect of healthy living is on the agenda for the Social Prescriber would be a low-cost intervention. Again, it is key that learning opportunities are provided from a young age, as the first five years of a child's life are critical, shaping the rest of their life. Targeted outcomes for pre-school and primary school aged children should be considered as a preventive measure and to support behaviour change from an early age.

#### 9.5 Education, employment, and access to opportunities

Less than half (42%) of the adult respondents said there are local opportunities to learn new skills and/or gain qualifications and only 41% said they could access them. Upskilling the community is key to economic and social development.

The younger residents surveyed seemed uncertain about access to local opportunities and their ability to learn/gain qualifications with the



most significant responses being ‘neither agree nor disagree’ or no answer at all. Recognising this dimension of life is very important for future dialogues and local representatives might want to investigate how they can work with local educational partners or employees to create these opportunities locally.

It is recommended that considering limitations to transport and a high proportion of the village’s population being in employment with a significant amount undertaking shift work – that any educational opportunities should be bought into the community. Benefits of upskilling or even reskilling can provide better employment and life prospects to individuals, which also could lead on to greater productivity locally – whether it is in employment or in a voluntary capacity. It is also recommended that opportunities are offered during the day and evenings, weekdays, and weekends.

Collaboration with existing and new businesses both in the village and wider area could be improved for volunteering and apprenticeship positions. It is recommended that through the Health and Wellbeing group, relations with local employers are maintained and built upon to nurture new opportunities. Such opportunities should be advertised at a local level.

Development of these opportunities should also be explored with local educational providers to bring satellite provisions to the village. Considering other themes raised within these recommendations, it should also be considered that community-based life or support skills and alternative education is introduced. Whilst such recommendation could target vocational or extracurricular options, it could also pick up on holistic wellbeing themes such as living independently, nutrition, parenting support, budgeting, energy savings and so forth.

## 9.6 Access to services and information

Just over half of the adult residents surveyed said they knew how to find information that benefits them and their family. It is recommended that linked to recommendation 9.1, a communication mechanism is sought to enable the most effective way of sharing information or signposting residents, as well as how to access services.

Residents report their access to services are limited due to costs, so focus on discounts, price offers, incentives, staged level pricing is recommended. The cost-of-living crisis is a recurrent theme and no doubt affecting the community across the age groups particularly the young people. Accessing opportunities and the connection with financial resources to do so, affects the life learning experiences for the younger demographic which could be a determinant of poorer health both mentally and physically. It is recommended dedicated space for young people is a constant consideration and the provision of youth activities, youth workers and opportunities are an important continuing concern.

Drop-ins are frequently mentioned or requested as a simple low cost, low inhibition way for residents to access services, and much praised by the younger people surveyed particularly in relation to mental health services. There is a sense of difficulty around access on this issue as there is in the wider community. It is recommended that consideration is sought by organisations, to provide more ways of working within the community which could break down historical stigma regarding accessing provisions or help. It may be that there are

more community clinics between services, to support where appropriate, a 'one-stop shop'.

### 9.7 Fuel poverty

Berinsfield has a higher proportion of households in fuel poverty than the average for South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire. Given the economic challenges faced by residents in a cost of living and climate crisis, the case for improving the energy efficiency of homes and investing in affordable, renewable sources of energy is increasingly important.

Recommended actions should prioritise opportunities to accelerate energy efficient home upgrades and low carbon heating options (e.g., air-source heat pumps), particularly for low-income households. Those living in cold and/or damp housing with poor ventilation are more likely to suffer from long-term health conditions, and helping households to reduce draughts and keep heat in will also help lower fuel bills as well as carbon emissions. Some possible solutions are to lower or eliminate the costs of making these changes, for example by offering cheaper technologies like buying solar panels in bulk or giving grants or low-interest loans. An alternative approach could focus on making it easier to make the required changes, through offering whole-house retrofit plans, help to undertake simple DIY measures, or direct links to specialist one-stop-shop services to manage the whole retrofitting process.

A feasibility study of the potential of large-scale renewable energy projects has already been undertaken. This identified several opportunities for further investigation including solar arrays on

industrial buildings and a heat network fuelled by water source heat pumps in the Queenford Lakes. If the construction of the new garden village at Mount Farm development goes ahead, this will be a critical opportunity for large scale roll-out of renewable energy and low carbon heating. Water sourced heat pumps, ground sourced, solar installations for the existing dwellings should all be analysed. Economies of scale making the community self-sufficient in energy generation could drive long-term gains across the social fabric, not least with fuel poverty.

### 9.8 Staying physically and mentally healthy.

The younger and mid-life age cohort have a range of activities on offer, but it is not clear from the representation provided in the survey to what extent the whole community uses them. It is possible to assume the respondents represent an average sample and extrapolate out but other analysis in surveys would be welcome. Whilst sports play a key part of the community, diversification and access to alternative leisure is recommended.

It is also recommended that more targeted provision is planned considering the findings of the Community Insight Profile to directly address local demand and needs. This could be encouraged through either group/community events such as Park Run, sponsored walks, and demonstration events or through assisted walking schemes, rambling groups, expert visits from foragers, wildlife and environmental experts and enthusiasts, etc.

It is recommended that key partners should discuss improved support for community-based mental health initiatives. Whilst there is great work being completed already by Riverside Counselling, it should be explored further the best ways to really breakdown the barriers and stigma connected to reaching out for help. There is a lot being offered presently, but the root cause of uptake or access to the services should be pin pointed. Such suggestions could include funding for a mental health visitor to undertake one-to-ones perhaps in home-settings and group support sessions at community venues where appropriate. It is recognised that support groups can introduce peers to sharing experiences and learning from others with lived experiences, encouraging a sense of camaraderie within the community as well as fostering a sense of belonging. It is important that diversification in service delivery is explored to tailor support to the community's needs.

Community-led support groups or social activism could be supported by trained professionals to address core issues of neighbourhood concern. This might also include awareness and training around drugs and alcohol, anti-social behaviour including dealing with difficult behaviour. This will promote stewardship within the community.

### 9.9 The built environment and infrastructure

The research did not focus on the physical environment and infrastructure when engaging and consulting with people. But some people mentioned the physical surroundings along with other themes in the survey.

How buildings and physical assets look and work affects wellbeing and how people feel about their environment. This can depend on how well the buildings and spaces serve their purpose, how they appear, or both.

Project discussions on improving or changing community facilities are recommended because this is related to the previous suggestion regarding provision of services. The planned housing allocation at Land at Mount Farm Berinsfield is important for this issue and the building of new amenities it will offer and help the renewal plan for existing Berinsfield.

The older age group has distinct continuing needs around access to medical facilities and education. Economies of scale should become possible at that stage around improving physical infrastructure such as ramps, walkways, guardrails.

It is recommended that healthy place shaping continues as part of the master planning process within Berinsfield for the proposed allocated site at Land at Mount Farm and regeneration within the existing village. There is merit in creating communities where it is easy to be healthy. In relation to shaping the built environment, it is recommended that we must look for early opportunities in the existing village including improvement to the public realm, greenspaces, recreation and leisure and other infrastructure at a local level to encourage healthy living such as community or health hubs and cafes.

The built environment can also play a part in improving elements of community safety, such as better lighting and sensitively designed recreational areas.

### 9.10 Transport and active travel

Encouragingly being a relatively self-contained and bounded area, 100% of younger people surveyed in Berinsfield report walking as a means of getting around. Alternatives mentioned are also the healthy ones of scooters and bikes.

The ability to move around the village and connect to the wider environment was frequently raised as a theme in the workshops and surveys. Bus services within the village are limited but do exist. These services need to be reviewed regularly and consistently placed in prominent position in consultations. Public transport and wider active travel improvements is recommended to be assessed in connection with the expansion plans around the Mount Farm development in the context of infrastructure.

Applying techniques of gentle persuasion to assess more healthy modes of transport as regards active travel could be considered in future consultations and communications. The village is relatively connected for cycling and walking and has unusually high opportunities for water-based activities.

It is recommended that pilot initiatives should be researched further and implemented to support transport and active travel, this could include but is not limited to e-bike and e-scooter trials to access other local service centres. It may also include other volunteer-led schemes

such as community drivers to facilitate better access to community activity. Other case studies to learn from is the successful role out of Ride Revolution in educating young people in to fixing bikes and allocating them to local families.

### 9.11 Conclusion

The research carried out to support development of this report aimed to understand the experience of residents and stakeholders in relation to health and wellbeing, outline the health challenges and opportunities, and present a series of recommendations to guide action planning towards improving health outcomes in the community.

The report is based on a range of engagement activities, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, and events, that involved residents, local organisations, businesses, and service providers and draws on data and statistics from the public health team at Oxfordshire County Council.

Several key findings and themes are identified such as the importance of green spaces, community facilities and activities, social support and relationships, access to local services, education, employment, and skills, physical and mental wellbeing, community safety, and healthy food and eating.

A set of recommendations have been presented that detail actions aimed at addressing the challenges and barriers to health and wellbeing, as well as building on the strengths and assets of the village.

The recommendations include:

- Improving communication, coordination, and coproduction among stakeholders,
- Enhancing community activation and cohesion,
- Tackling loneliness as well as fostering a sense of identity, and belonging,
- Supporting healthy food and eating habits, through improved provision, education and communication,
- Supporting improved access to education, employment and other learning opportunities,
- Improving access to local services and information,
- Addressing fuel poverty including through energy efficiency of homes,
- Targeted provision of physical and mental wellbeing initiatives,
- Improvements to the built environment and infrastructure by employing healthy place shaping principles,
- Improving transport links and encouraging active travel.

After the publication of this report, an action plan will be created outlining tasks related to the outcomes of the research to help with the implementation of the recommendations.

A £25,000 grant fund is allocated as part of the funding for this project will be used to finance local community projects that align with the outcomes and suggestions stated in this report.

A Community Health Development Officer will also be recruited to assist the ongoing work and the sustained joint working through the Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Group.