



Barry comes up with the best plan

The Banbury Guardian (December 6, 2012) carries an article about Councillor Barry Wood, leader of Cherwell District Council, with his good news about the development of the Banbury Master Plan - the way in which Cherwell District Council see the future of Banbury.

Though why Cherwell District Council speak up on the matter not our own Town Council is puzzling, isn't it?

Barry focuses on the areas for improvement, which everyone wants to see happen as soon as possible: *Spiceball* cultural centre, *Canalside* housing and town improvement and *Bolton Road* expansion.

Unfortunately the article does not mention the other contentious parts of the Cherwell top-down Local Plan, being forced on our community, which includes large swathes of "little box" housing across green field sites all round the boundaries of the town. Especially the environmentally and socially important northern boundary above Hanwell Fields. As the Hanwell Fields Development Action Group (www.hfdag.org.uk) have pointed out these plans make no sense as more than enough housing will be built in Bankside I and Canalside to meet our needs for the next government NPPF planning cycle of 15 years.

Let's hope that in focusing on the real needs of Banbury, to bring life back to the town centre, Councillor Woods is at last realising the strong feeling of the community against the housing plans, and that our environment and green fields will be protected.

For more information please see www.hfdag.org.uk