

Oxfordshire County Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

It won't happen, but could Chinnor please be moved into Buckinghamshire, or Chinnor's councillor be allowed to transfer her or his voting rights and constructive contributions to the Bucks council chamber? We are a small town now, due to the decades-long failure of SODC to control residential development but no new land has been zoned for businesses and nearly all the commercial properties and employment centres have been converted into housing. As a result there are almost no local job opportunities and the town is just a dormitory, with most people forced to be self-employed or commute. OCC's strategic and economic development plans are fixated on the Oxford-Abingdon-Didcot corridor, so towns like Chinnor receives no attention at all. Thame and Wallingford - two of the four towns (with Henley and Didcot) identified by SODC as its principal settlements - are only 1.8 to 1.27 times bigger than Chinnor (11,940 and 8,455 versus 6,658 in the 2021 census), but what a contrast in terms of community facilities (schools, doctors, theatres, hospitals, swimming baths), shops and employment opportunities! Even much smaller towns like Watlington or Wendover have far better provision. Chinnor has been comprehensively ignored by OCC and SODC for what seems like forever - they take our S106 and CIL money and our council taxes, but it took decades to get our solitary roundabout fixed from flooding, there's not a single cycleway in any direction despite the proximity of the Phoenix Trail and Icknield Way, our library and community centre are withering away from neglect and underinvestment, and our secondary school in Thame is a huge, unwieldy monster, deeply unattractive to a good number of children and their parents. The only county doing any good work for Chinnor seems to be Buckinghamshire: bus routes, much better libraries, a recycling centre at a sensible distance (just over the border, and not a penny of contribution from SODC or OCC), sensible-sized grammar and other schools, and so on.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded