

Cllr Leverton asked a question regarding the specific number of houses in Carterton that have been built but are currently unoccupied due to the planning condition relating to the Thames Water Upgrades:

*'Having spoken to the service we can advise that the development consists of a total of 72 dwellings. However, a planning condition currently restricts occupation to 49 homes until the condition is formally discharged. This restriction is directly impacting the delivery of 14 affordable homes. Of these, 9 are Section 106 units and 5 are funded through the LAHF (Local Authority Housing Fund) grant. Cottsway will be the landlord for these affordable homes and are keen to make the homes available as soon as possible. They are actively working with the developer, Miller, to explore all options to expedite the necessary improvement works by Thames Water in order to lift the restriction.'*

Cllr Early asked: Windrush in Witney funding bid - This project has been in discussion since pre-2022. Was the funding bid submitted in February 2025? If not, what is the mitigation, and should an alternative (such as external expertise from other appropriate organisations) be considered, to enable this bid to be submitted without further delay?

*'Wychwood Forest Trust has submitted a formal Expression of Interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) for funding to deliver the Windrush in Witney project. This has been approved and discussions with the NHLF are well advanced with an invitation extended to proceed to the next stage of the NHLF application process, which is to undertake a development proposal ahead of formal submission of the bid. The next application window is May 2025. The Wychwood Forest Trust has the necessary track record and expertise to develop and submit the bid. Moving to a different vehicle for completing the application would potentially hinder its successful timely submission.'*

*The Board of Trustees of Wychwood Forest Trust is the responsible body accountable for the activities of the Wychwood Forest Trust, including the submission of a bid to the NHLF. West Oxfordshire District Council is represented on the Board by District Councillor Rosie Pearson, Green Party Group Leader. The District Council supports the work programme of Wychwood Forest Trust through, for example, the provision of a £9,000 one-off grant to enable the progression of the bid to the NHLF, and Officers will continue to offer support on bid preparation.'*