

Kidlington Parish Council Chair's report June 2021

What kind of place is Kidlington? Oxford City has published an extensive set of statistical profiles of Oxfordshire parishes derived from government data by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion. The Kidlington report is dated January 2021: see

http://www.oxford.gov.uk/districtdata/download/downloads/id/1234/2020_kidlington_parish_report.pdf

It measures data for Kidlington against those for Cherwell and the UK as a whole, and while the results are generally not surprising, they are nonetheless interesting.

The population of Kidlington is estimated (2019) at 13,979, excluding Gosford and Water Eaton. We are the eighth largest urban centre in Oxfordshire, and the third largest in Cherwell. The population has remained stable from 2001 to 2019, whereas it has gone up by 12-14% in Cherwell and England. We have slightly less residents under 16 than the Cherwell and England averages, and slightly more aged 65 and over.

In the 2011 census our white British population at 81.6% was slightly more than the England average, but the proportion born outside the UK, 14.7%, was also slightly more. We had rather more pensioner households than the England average (24.1% versus 20.7%), rather less one-person under 65 households (12.5% versus 17.9%), and rather less lone-parent families (18.3% versus 24.5%). It will be interesting to see how this changes in the census that has just been completed.

Unemployment (November 2020) is significantly lower than the England average (3.4% versus 6.5%), and the same goes for youth unemployment (18-24: 4.9% versus 9.2%). The percentage of children in low-income families, in 2018, was again lower than the Cherwell and England averages (8.9% versus 12.7% and 18.2%).

Also from the 2011 census, we had slightly more detached houses than the England average, significantly more semi-detached (43.6% versus 30.7%), and slightly less terraced. Our percentage of owner-occupiers was well above the England average (75.7% versus 64.1%), and the percentage of social-rented households well below (9.6% versus 17.7%). The average house price last year was £323,297, slightly above the England average, and the number of dwellings in Council Tax Bands C-E was well above Cherwell and England numbers. But it will surprise no one to learn that on all calculations of housing affordability we do significantly worse than the England average.

On quality of life indicators, the incidence of crime in Kidlington is well below the England average on all counts: less than half for the year to August 2020, with the proportion of anti-social behaviour, burglaries and robberies much lower still. On life expectancy counts we do very slightly better than Cherwell and England. On other well-being indices we seem to be pretty much around the average, as we are on education. But annual household income (2017-8) is above the average for Cherwell and England.

According to the 2011 census, 84% of residents are satisfied with the local area as a place to live, as against an average 79% for England. All of which seems to confirm that Kidlington is in many respects a fairly average and in many a better-than-average place to live, with the one major problem of housing affordability.

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