



Focus on Parishes with Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (Chalgrove and Watlington)

January 2023

Welcome to my monthly update. I share a regular update in the first week of every month. In the interests of transparency, I share this update publicly as well as with parish councils.

My recent meetings:

- 12th December: Great Milton Parish Council
- 13th December: Full Council, Oxford
- 13th December: Watlington Parish Council
- 14th December: Little Milton Parish Council

Upcoming meetings:

- 4th January: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 9th January: Great Haseley Parish Council
- 10th January: Watlington Parish Council
- 11th January: Ewelme Parish Council
- 16th January: Great Milton Parish Council
- 18th January: Audit and governance committee, Oxford
- 25th January: Place committee, Oxford

OCC news

Reduced bus fares: For 3 months (Jan-Mar), bus passengers can enjoy a [£2 cap on bus fares](#). Paid for by a government scheme, fares with participating bus firms will cost a maximum of £2 per adult single fare (includes Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel). Concessions are unaffected and school services are excluded.

Anti-sewage motion passes and water summit: A Lib Dem motion at Full Council in December condemning the practice of dumping sewage into waterways passed with

near unanimity (one conservative opposed). Over the Christmas period, Thames Water released raw sewage 6 times into Oxfordshire rivers. A [water summit](#) in December also looked at challenges facing water supply and demand in Oxfordshire.

Three in four streetlamps now LED: Over 75% of the 60,000+ street lighting assets in OCC control are now run with energy saving LED lights. Streetlighting is the largest source of carbon emissions in OCC's operations and is a growing cost due to rising energy prices. Since 2019/20 OCC has reduced carbon emissions by 21%, in large part thanks to the LED scheme. The milestone represents a significant improvement in the pace of rollout and will save the council [£77m over 20 years](#).

Tree planting: As part of the new Tree Policy for Oxfordshire, [450 trees](#) will be planted on highways over the winter period, supported by £185,000 from budget reserves.

Successful bid for children's homes: OCC has successfully bid for a £5.2m grant to part fund four new residential children's homes. The homes would provide accommodation and support for children requiring solo provision or who can only share with one other child, children with autism, and children who have had adverse childhood experiences. These new homes would add to OCC's portfolio of three homes, along with the new 4-bedroom home being constructed in Aston. The matched funding by OCC is still to be finalised.

Health consultation: A draft strategy developed by local healthcare leaders from across the health and care system in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire (BOB) area is being consulted on (closes 29th Jan). Survey: [link](#)

Chilterns AONB boundaries: Natural England are overseeing a review process of the boundaries of the Chilterns AONB. Natural England are appointing consultants who will carry out a technical assessment of natural beauty before consulting with stakeholders in spring and early summer of 2023. Contact email for enquiries: ChilternsAONBBoundaryReview@NaturalEngland.org.uk

News in short

New Chief Executive: Dr Martin Reeves has been appointed OCC's new chief executive

Traffic filter fake news rebutted: Watch rebuttals [here](#)

Award winning council: OCC wins three [environmental awards](#)

Guide to adulthood for SEND children: Guide on refreshed [website](#)

Increase in highways funding 22/23: OCC increased funding by £0.8m for 22/23

20mph scheme

All villages that applied have completed the consultation phase (except Watlington). 20mph limits have already been installed in Chalgrove, Great/Little Haseley and Great Milton. The remainder are likely to be installed between February and April 2023.

Village	Consultation Closes	Decision Date	Installation
Berrick Salome	Closed	26 th January	
Britwell Salome	Closed	Approved	
Chalgrove	Closed	Approved	Installed
Great/Little Haseley	Closed	Approved	Installed
Great Milton	Closed	Approved	Installed
Lewknor	Closed	26 th January	
Little Milton	Closed	26 th January	
Nettlebed	Closed	26 th January	
Pyrton	Closed	26 th January	
Watlington	February (TBC)	March (TBC)	

Parish round-up

Not all parishes are covered – below is a selection of the main updates.

Chalgrove

- **EV charging points:** An opportunity to install 1-2 EV chargers at the village hall car park as a 'microhub' is being explored with the parish council (tbc - funding not yet secured)
- **High street (new housing estate) traffic calming measures:** Traffic calming measures are being [consulted](#) on (closes 13th Jan) linked to the new housing estate. The measures include,
 - Zebra crossing on a flat top road hump 160m west of Marley Lane
 - Raised flat top road humps with heights of 75mm
 - Buildouts with priority workings, narrowing the carriageway to 3.4m
 - Bus stop clearways (with a 'No stopping except local buses restriction').
 - Footway improvement works and re-alignment of the existing carriageway at the western end of High Street

Cuxham

- **Drainage issues and potholes:** Drainage issues on B480 by Ivy cottage could be addressed as a scheme to upgrade the four 'off lets' for 'gullies and pots' and has

been added to the 23/24 drainage program. Following improvements to the drainage, work can be carried out to improve the road surface more satisfactorily.

Ewelme

- **HGVs:** A Planning Contravention Notice was issued on 2nd December against the directors of Hazell Jefferies to investigate a suspected breach of planning regulations following the installation of a concrete loading facility. OCC also anticipates the operators to apply for an updated lawful development certificate and have been given until mid-February to come forward with an application.

Lewknor

- **Manor close:** The land gap issue has not been resolved by the developer according to OCC officers. Although some work appears to have been carried out, this is not on land considered by OCC to be within the highway
- **M40 junction:** National Highways have advised they *'are not in a position to advise further as yet and are unable to enter any conversation with local councillors'* OCC has indicated it would be willing to financially support an initiative to improve the safety of the junction for bus users and pedestrians.

Pishill with Stonor

- **Potholes:** Additional patching has been carried out in Maidensgrove

Watlington

- **Streetlights:** Power has been restored to streetlights on Willow close and Chestnut close.