



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

June 2021

Welcome to my monthly update. Going forward I will be sharing a regular update in the first week of every month. In the interests of transparency and sharing good ideas I will be sharing this update publicly as well as with parish councils in Chalgrove and Watlington division.

My recent meetings

- 11th May: Watlington Parish Council
- 12th May: Ewelme Parish Council
- 12th May: Watlington Climate Action Group
- 18th May: Full Council Annual Meeting
- 22nd May: Watlington Art Week
- 27th May: Haseley Brook Action Group
- 27th May: Cuxham with Easington Parish Council

Upcoming meetings:

- 1st June: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 9th June: Little Milton Parish Council

If there are meetings you would like to invite me to please get in touch:

freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OCC news:

Lib-Dems and Greens form alliance with Labour: Following the spectacular results of the May elections to Oxfordshire County Council, the Lib-Dems and Greens have formed a single political group, with 24 seats in total in the council chamber. Together with the support of Labour, we have formed the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance and form a majority administration. Liz Leffman, Lib Dem, has been selected as leader of the council.

Cllr Freddie van Mierlo focused on serving residents: As a first time councilor I have chosen not to put myself forward for a cabinet position and focus my attention on serving the residents of Chalgrove and Watlington division. As part of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance I will sit on public health committees.

Councillor Priority Fund now open: Applications to the Councillor Priority Fund are now open. This is a fund of £15,000 to be used over two years on projects in Chalgrove and Watlington division. My approach to using this fund will be to encourage applications early and spend the money as soon as possible. I see no point in eking out the fund over two years when it can be doing good in the community now.

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/search?search_api_fulltext=councillor%20priority%20fund

Parish round up

Not all parishes are covered – below are the main updates I have received / been working on. More parishes will be added as I attend meetings next month.

Chalgrove

- **Airfield:** Homes England has withdrawn its application to build 3,000 homes on Chalgrove airfield. We expect Homes England to come back to SODC later this year with an amended application
- **Broadband:** Following complaints from residents in May with broadband dropping out, I have alerted the relevant officer in OCC. If you have experienced issues, please get in touch with your broadband supplier, and forward information on to me or David Turner (SODC Cllr for Chalgrove)
- **Open consultation for a restricted byway (recreation ground):** There will be a public hearing in September (remotely) on the recording a restricted byway running between High Street and St Mary’s Church. The public hearing is taking place because of objections made from Chalgrove Parish council, Chalgrove local history group and others. I am in touch with the relevant OCC officer and asked to be kept updated on developments. Further details can be found here:
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Chalgrove/consultationHome>

Cuxham with Easington

- **Airfield:** The parish council stated to me that should the airfield development go ahead, any new application made by Homes England should include a bypass for Cuxham
- **Traffic calming:** I attended a meeting with the main topic of discussion being an innovative trial of traffic calming measures in Cuxham village that will focus on narrowing the road in certain places with the use of planters and extending verges, and a 20 mile an hour limit. I am following this trial closely to see how other parishes can replicate it

Ewelme:

- **Traffic calming:** I attended a meeting in Ewelme, where I was briefed on proposals for a 20 mile an hour zone, and on the problems caused in the village of heavy truck movements along Green Lane and Eyres Lane. I am in touch with the parish council to arrange a site visit

Nettlebed:

- **Bus timetables:** new I have followed up with OCC officers to ensure work is completed on the bus stops. Provision date given by the contractor for the work is now 16th June

Watlington

- **Edge road:** Proposals for an edge road / bypass were discussed at the parish council meeting. I am continuing to be briefed and updated on the issue.
- **Climate emergency:** There was a request for greater guidance from OCC on what activities and ideas parish councils can implement to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies. I am following up with OCC and Dr. Pete Sudbury (cabinet member for climate emergency)