



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

July 2023

*Welcome to my monthly update, shared in the first week of every month.*

### Upcoming meetings:

- 10<sup>th</sup> July: Great Haseley Parish Council
- 11<sup>th</sup> July: OCC Full Council, Oxford
- 11<sup>th</sup> July: Watlington Parish Council
- 12<sup>th</sup> July: Little Milton Parish Council
- 17<sup>th</sup> July: Great Milton Parish Council

### \*\*\*\*\* OCC NEWS\*\*\*\*\*

**Holding utilities companies to account:** OCC is seeking permission from the government to adopt a 'lane rental scheme'. The scheme aims to reduce disruptive roadworks by utilities, incentivising them to keep to schedule and work off-peak. Fees of up to £2,500/day can be collected and reinvested in the road network. The surplus could be upwards of £2 million a year from 2024-2025.

**Pothole trial:** A trial took place in Steventon and East Hanney testing seven different methods of repairing minor defects in the road surface. Some of the methods are already in use in Oxfordshire, while others are new types of repair. The trial will inform how defects are repaired in the future.

**Fees for DIY waste:** The government has announced charges for DIY waste collected at household waste and recycling centres (HWRC) should be abolished. OCC is awaiting instruction from the government on when this change should be made. The charges currently help to subsidise the cost of running waste collection centres by £0.5m a year. Government is providing no additional funding to cover the shortfall created, meaning funding will need to be found through savings or increased council tax.

**Nature recovery:** Oxfordshire County Council has been designated as the lead authority for [nature recovery](#) in the county. The responsibility comes with additional funding from a £14 million pot to be divided between 48 councils. Local nature recovery plans were made a [legal requirement](#) by the Environment Act 2021

**SEND Ofstead inspection:** Ofstead and the Care Quality Commission are carrying out an [inspection of services](#) for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Parents and other interested groups are being encouraged to respond to a [survey](#) (closes 9am 11 July)

\*\*\*\*\***NEWS IN BRIEF**\*\*\*\*\*

**£2 bus cap:** The government's cap on bus fares has been extended to October

**Recycling centres open until 8pm:** HWRCs will be open until 8pm on Thursdays

**Platform to promote care jobs:** A [website](#) has been created to encourage people to enter care jobs

\*\*\*\*\***GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING**\*\*\*\*\*

**Councillor priority fund:** Open for applications

**Hardship fund:** OCC's hardship fund ([Resident Support Scheme](#)) was launched in June. Phone: 01865 804171

**Home Upgrade Grants:** OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will [qualify](#) to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for 'off-grid' homes)

\*\*\*\*\***PARISH ROUND-UP**\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Cuxham:**

- **B480 flooding:** Work to alleviate flooding and ponding on the B480 is ongoing

**Great Milton**

- **Broadband:** OCC in discussion with Great Milton Parish Council, Recreation Ground Committee and BT Openreach on delivery of FTTP for the pavilion

**Nettlebed:**

- **Wanbourne Lane:** Discussions ongoing with OCC on reducing highway intrusion of hedging

## Lewknor

- **Manor Close land gap:** OCC have been attempting to contact Beeks to resolve the issue and are continuing to reach out.
- **Lewknor interchange:** Improvements to the traffic direction signs at B4009 / M40 J6 are being considered as a result of consultants for Highways England carrying out a review into an incident of driving on the no entry exit slips.

## Shirburn

- **Traffic calming:** A site visit will be carried out with officers to discuss use of a successful CIL bid to install traffic calming measures

## Watlington

- **Couching St/Brook St:** Officers are in touch with WPC to discuss options to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement at the junction of Couching St and Brook St.
- **Charlotte Coxe Trust:** OCC officers report that OCC are ready to transfer ownership of the trust to WPC.
- **Red Kite View to Cuxham Road path:** OCC have met with Bloor to progress plans to upgrade infrastructure that will allow a path between Red Kite View and Cuxham Road to be opened. It is estimated the work will be completed by October.