



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

July 2024

### OCC NEWS

**No confidence in Thames Water:** Councillors voted that they have no confidence in Thames Water. The Council will write to the Secretary of State to urge limits on bonuses for water bosses and evaluate the pros and cons of renationalisation.

**Challenge to council leader:** A motion of no confidence in the Lib Dem Leader of the Council Liz Leffman was tabled by the leader of the Labour group, Liz Brighthouse. The motion was defeated and comes in the wake of a poor Ofsted report for SEND under Brighthouse's tutelage as the former cabinet member.

**Call for Council to step up flood prevention role:** Council passed a motion calling on the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority to respond to increasing risks to flooding and to work with relevant national and local stakeholders to advocate for greater powers.

**Delay to Oxford traffic filter trial:** Trials of six traffic filters to reduce congestion have been delayed. They were due to take place in November but have been pushed back due to work by [Network Rail](#) overrunning.

**New county-wide bus ticket:** A new [ticket](#) that works across different bus operators has been launched, costing £6.50 a day for unlimited travel for adults and £3.50 for under-19s

**Adult social care:** Adults with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire have helped to redesign a [service](#) that will offer them more choice and flexibility around their short break options.

**Road closures and potholes:** Summer sees increased work to the road network. You can keep up to date with [One Network](#) and OCC's [map tool](#) for major highway maintenance. The County's 2024 £7m programme to invest in surface dressing has been completed.

### GRANTS

**Warm homes:** OCC has secured funding to support residents with upgrades to improve energy efficiency. The funding is for homes off the gas grid. [Eligibility](#).

**Councillor priority funds:** All monies have been allocated. No further bids can be accepted.

## CONSULTATIONS

**Flood risk:** Consultation on OCC draft strategy. [Closes 23 August](#)

**Climate:** Consultation on supporting communities to achieve net zero. [Closes 31 August](#)

## PARISH ROUND-UP

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

### **Berrick Salome**

- **Blocked drains:** Work to complete clearance of blocked drains to be carried out 24<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Chalgrove**

- **Repairs:** Damaged railing fixed in July

### **Ewelme**

- **CLEUD:** Decision is still pending.
- **RAF Benson 20mph:** 20mph limited were [approved](#)

### **Lewknor**

- **Solar:** Company [Solar2](#) has developed plans for a solar farm at Postcombe and Lewknor (no active planning application).
- **Manor Close:** No update – awaiting further news from developer & OCC.
- **Hill Road steps:** Designs to install a handrail are being developed.

### **Nettlebed**

- **Brick Kiln:** Maintenance by OCC being chased.

### **Pishill with Stonor**

- **Flash-flooding:** Enquiries being made with OCC about clearing grips

### **Watlington**

- **Relief Road:** OCC is working to make improvements to its planning application following objections from the Environment Agency with regards to flood mitigation on the chalk stream. A new consultation will be held (mid-September), followed by a meeting of the planning committee (estimate November).
- **Charlotte Coxe Trust:** A meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August of the Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee following a fruitful all stakeholder discussion.
- **Red Kite View to Cuxham Road path:** Officers / Bloor being chased for a timeline
- **Planning P22/S3607/FUL:** OCC officers have provided an updated response to the planning application at Lys Mill Farm Buildings