



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

February 2024

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

Upcoming meetings:

- 30th January: Residents of Swyncombe
- 1st February: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 7th February: Place Scrutiny Committee, Oxford
- 13th February: Watlington Parish Council
- 14th February: Ewelme Parish Council
- 20th February: Full Council, Oxford

***** OCC NEWS*****

OCC Budget 2024-2025: A balanced budget is being proposed to Council at its 20 February meeting. Budgets for both adults and children's social care will increase in real-terms again. The draft budget is based on a 4.99 per cent council tax rise in 2024/25, with two per cent of this being ringfenced for adult social care.

Watlington Relief Road Consultation: A consultation on the planning application is open. All the documents can be found on the Oxfordshire County Council [website](#) (application number is R3.0010/24). The consultation is open until 02/03/23. Following the consultation, a decision will be made by the planning committee of OCC (made up of Oxfordshire County Councillors). It is anticipated this meeting will be in April/May.

Funding for new SEND school in Didcot: Projected to open in 2026/7, it is intended that the school will have capacity to teach 120 children with SEN related to autism and/or social, emotional, and mental health. £14.4 million is to be invested.

Fix My Street improvements: The number of categories has been streamlined but with more sub-categories to make it easier to find the right section. The changes are

aimed at reducing the number of reports sent to the wrong department or council, which can delay the problem being resolved. [Feedback survey](#)

Mobility Hubs: Oxfordshire County Council has a budget of £1.5m over three years to develop 'mobility hubs' across the county. These could be major sites or as simple as bike racks by a bus shelter or a car club. The county is assessing where sites could benefit from this initiative (mobilityhubs@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Planned capital highway maintenance map: A [map](#) of planned highway maintenance (e.g. surface inlay, surface dressing) shows future road maintenance projects. Proposed (draft) schemes for 2024-2025 can be viewed by pressing the blue button with three lines and selecting the year 2024-2025. Proposed schemes include:

- Britwell Salome / Watlington (B4009): Retexturing and surface dressing
- Watlington (Brook Street/Britwell Road): Surface inlay
- Springfield Close: Micro-asphalt
- Cuxham, North of village (B480): Surface inlay
- Stoke Talmage: Recycling scheme
- Berrick Salome: Surface Dressing

The email for reactive repairs is highwaysengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Household Waste and Recycling: OCC will no longer charge for small amounts of DIY waste (requires booking, up to 5 chargeable items or 1 plasterboard piece). The change will cost £0.5 a year. A new recycling service for vapes has also been introduced at all Oxfordshire HWRCs.

HGVs: A steering group of OCC councillors has been formed to inform the study into HGV movements in Henley-on-Thames. The study will cover an area wider than the town of Henley.

'Lane rental' scheme: The [scheme](#) to reduce disruption utilities works causes has identified the roads to be part of the scheme. These include many A and B roads and major thoroughfares. The full list is long, but includes e.g., Shirburn Street, Britwell Road, Couching Street, Brook Street (Watlington), A4130 and B4009 through Nettlebed, sections of the A40 etc,

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

Bus fares: The £2 single bus fare cap has been extended to 31st December 2024

Electric buses: Now in service in Oxford

Benson relief road: Main civils work to run until Summer 2024

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

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

Chalgrove

- **Gladman planning application:** An objection was submitted by OCC for Education. The application was rejected by SODC.
- **Marley lane:** Ponding on Marley lane is being investigated by OCC

Cuxham

- **Traffic calming:** Ongoing discussions with OCC

Ewelme

- **CLEUD:** Hazell and Jeffries have submitted an application for a certificate of lawful use or development to OCC. The application is in the process of being reviewed.

Lewknor

- **Manor Close:** Questions being asked to OCC following recent correspondence between residents and developer
- **Hill Road steps:** OCC investigating installing handrail in next financial year

Shirburn

- **Chicane:** A trial was held on 22/01/2024 for chicane traffic calming measures in Shirburn

Watlington

- **Charlotte Coxe Trust:** A meeting of the OCC committee was held on 25th January. The annual accounts were signed off. An invitation will follow from OCC to WPC and Watlington Welcome to a meeting to resolve outstanding issues with the transfer of the trust.
- **Red Kite View to Cuxham Road path:** Legal agreement was sent to developers' solicitors on 16th January. The importance and urgency of the work is being pressed.