



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

**June 2022**

*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**

- 10<sup>th</sup> May: Joint Oxfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee
- 10<sup>th</sup> May: Watlington Parish Council
- 12<sup>th</sup> May: Berrick Salome Parish Council
- 16<sup>th</sup> May: Swyncombe Annual Parish Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> May: Full Council, County Hall
- 19<sup>th</sup> May: Watlington Parish Annual Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> May: Residents of Middle Ground
- 21<sup>st</sup> May: Oxfordshire Doughnut (economics) Collective, Oxford

**Upcoming meetings:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> June: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 7<sup>th</sup> June: Watlington & Pyrton Parish Councils (site visit)
- 13<sup>th</sup> June: Lewknor Parish Council
- 14<sup>th</sup> June: Watlington Parish Council
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Wantage Community Hospital (site visit)

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**OCC news:**

**Changes to Cabinet:** Liberal Democrats made a few changes to cabinet positions for the upcoming year. Cllr Tim Bearder moves to Adult Social Care (formerly in charge of Highways), while Cllr Andrew Gant joins the cabinet taking on the Highways portfolio. Cllr Neil Fawcett stepped down from cabinet, with Cllr Jenny Hannaby taking on the

Community Services position (which includes libraries, fire & rescue, and gypsy & traveller services). Cllr Liz Leffman remains leader of the Council. Meanwhile Cllr Dan Levy takes on the role of cycling champion (replacing Cllr Andrew Gant).

**Food strategy to tackle food poverty:** A new Oxfordshire food [strategy](#) has been drawn up, focusing on fair access to good quality, sustainably produced food. 9-14% of Oxfordshire residents experience food insecurity. Because of this, priority areas for action include, reducing food poverty and diet ill-health, strengthening local food supply chains, and improving institutional (e.g., schools) catering. Watlington’s brilliant Orange Bakery was included in the report as an example of local businesses that supports local producers and employment of disadvantaged people

**SEND strategy:** Following a consultation period, the [strategy](#) is set to be published in June 2022.

**More climate action:** Cabinet has approved [plans](#) which could see its own carbon emissions almost halved by 2024/25. Cabinet also approved a plan to decarbonize OCC’s estate and operations by 2030, and transition Oxfordshire as a county to net zero ahead of the national target of 2050. One of the main projects to cut emissions is the conversion of Oxfordshire’s streetlights to low-energy LED lighting. Nearly half have so far been changed as part of a £40 million project which will save council taxpayers £77m over a 20-year period.

**Parking enforcement:** Following a question I put to cabinet, data has been released on where parking enforcement is taking place, and the number of fines issued. Over the past 3 months, 27 visits were made to Watlington, with 2 fines issued. Illegally parked cars can be reported here: <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reportparkedvehicle>

**OCC wins more money for Oxfordshire:** Oxfordshire County Council has won yet another government bid. This time £10.4 million for [active travel schemes](#). This brings the total brought in by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance to over £55 million for bus and active travel schemes.

**Warning on adult social care:** Oxfordshire County Council has called on the government to properly fund adult social care, rather than pushing yet more costs onto local taxpayers. Changes brought in by the government could double the number of people eligible for financial support. Lib Dem finance cabinet member, Cllr Calum Miller has said money from government ‘doesn’t even come close’. When the government demands councils spend more money on adult social care, without funding, it means rates rise, and money needs is be diverted from roads or libraries

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## Parish round-up

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

## Britwell Salome

- **OCC response to planning application for 10 homes:** OCC has submitted its response to SODC on the planning application for 10 new homes (P22/S1433/FUL). OCC has objected on transport development control and flooding grounds citing, amongst other reasons, the near complete car dependency of the proposed development

## Chalgrove

- **Concerns expressed about Gladman planning application for 160 homes:** I have submitted my comments about the planning application submitted to SODC by Gladman for 160 homes next to the Miller homes site. I have expressed concerns about the speed of traffic coming from the direction of Cuxham, and extreme car dependency of the location

## Great Milton

- **New bus route:** I very much welcome the new bus route, that will link Great Milton to Oxford, after a 6-year hiatus.

## Swyncombe

- **Emergency works by Thames Water:** Following complaints from residents about the emergency road closure in Pishill, I am making enquiries with OCC and Thames Water as to whether correct process was followed. If the process was not followed correctly, OCC has the power to impose a fine on Thames Water
- **Surface dressing B481:** Surface dressing work was carried out by OCC. Line marking will take place in the coming weeks after the surface has bedded in

## Nettlebed

- **Primary school consultation:** Happy Days pre-school and Nettlebed primary would like to merge. This process requires a statutory process to extend the age range of the school and transfer assets. A consultation is now open via [LetsTalk](#). The consultation closes on 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Puddingstone information board:** OCC have agreed to replace the plywood back to the puddingstone information board

## Watlington

- **Edge road:** A meeting was facilitated between senior officers and Watlington and Pyrton parish councils to discuss progress of the project. The importance of delivering the road on time, in line with new housing was expressed again, and has been heard!
- **Pyrton Lane traffic calming:** Work to install the traffic calming measures has been booked to start on 8<sup>th</sup> August and will last for 5 days.