



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

May 2024

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

Upcoming meetings:

- 7th May: Pishill with Stonor Parish Council
- 13th May: Lewknor Parish Council
- 14th May: Pyrton Parish Council, Nettlebed Annual Parish Meeting
- 21st May: Annual Council, County Council, Oxford
- 28th May: Watlington Annual Meeting

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

Chalgrove Airfield: Homes England held a ‘Community Engagement’ exercise on their proposals for a new town at Chalgrove. Notably, Homes England propose to use land outside of the Local Plan Allocation and lay out an option for no bypass at Cuxham. Homes England have not yet made a new planning application, but Chalgrove Airfield remains an allocated site under the existing adopted Local Plan authored by the Conservatives. South Oxfordshire and Vale have proposed to deallocate the site in the new Local Plan (not yet adopted).

Oxford United Stadium: ‘Heads of terms’ have been [agreed](#) between Oxfordshire County Council and OUFC for the lease of land near Kidlington owned by OCC and proposed to be the site of OUFC’s new home. A number of other key legal and partnership agreements still need to be made, including planning permission from Cherwell District Council and the production of a net zero carbon plan.

Boost to cycling: OCC has [approved](#) its map for a ‘Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN)’. The map has [straight line walking and cycle routes](#) between settlements in Oxfordshire and towns/villages in neighbouring counties. Primary links include Chalgrove to Oxford, Wallingford and Culham, and Watlington to Princes Risborough (via Lewknor and Chinnor). Cabinet approved progressing to ‘stage 2’ – translating the straight-line network into on-the-ground alignments, design and costing.

Mission to eliminate road deaths: A package of measures aimed at eliminated deaths and serious injuries on Oxfordshire’s roads by 2050 ([‘Vision Zero’](#)) have been approved. Each

year there are currently approximately 30 deaths and 245 serious injuries on Oxfordshire's roads. The programme has £4 million in funding for projects to be delivered by 2026.

Community transport grants 2024-25: OCC is inviting parish/town councils to bid for community transport grants from a pot of £150,000. Last year, Watlington Parish Council was awarded a grant for a transport study. Applications from successful bidders in 2023-2024 will not be considered to give opportunity for other areas to benefit also.

Road closures: As we approach the summer season, we will see increased work to the road network. You can keep up to date with [One Network](#) and OCC's [map tool](#) for major highway maintenance.

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

LED streetlights: Programme to replace lighting nearing completion.

Firefighting: New [breathing equipment](#) now in use in Oxfordshire

Ofsted: OCC's children's service rated as '[good](#)' and praised for improvements made

Household Waste: HWRCs will no longer be open [Thursday evenings](#)

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

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

Brightwell Baldwin

- **Footpath:** The Council has determined that there is sufficient evidence to support a Modification of the Definitive Map. The Order will add two routes between Brightwell Baldwin village street and public footpath No 4.

Chalgrove

- **Marley Lane drainage:** Additional jetting and investigation carried out after work to repair a broken pipe did not resolve flooding.
- **Village maintenance:** Repairs to wall and railings on High Street being chased.

Cuxham

- **Work to B480:** Resurfacing work to B480 will be carried out in Cuxham on 7/06 and at the junction with Cutmill Cottages on 11/06.
- **Traffic calming:** Installation of traffic calming is progressing, including white village gates now installed.

Ewelme

- **CLEUD:** Decision is still pending. Determination deadline is now 7th June. If it goes to committee, the next available date would be 3rd June.
- **139 bus service:** Following OCC discussion with Thames Travel there is agreement on a single ticket price for journeys from Ewelme/RAF Benson to Cholsey via Wallingford. Agreement was also reached in principle on reversing the loop at certain times to enable a direct Ewelme/RAF Benson to Benson service. OCC has asked parish councils for input on which times would be most beneficial to reverse the loop.

Lewknor

- **Manor Close:** No update – awaiting further news from developer & OCC.

- **Hill Road steps:** Designs to install a handrail are being developed.
- **Funeral Path:** Officers met with parish council on site to discussion options to ensure use of path by foot only. Unauthorized users can be reported [here](#) and unauthorized vehicles reported to the police.

Little Milton

- **Flooding:** Maintenance scheme being prepared to resolve drainage issues and reinstate kerb line of section of A329.

Nettlebed

- **Brick Kiln:** Currently chasing maintenance work to kiln.

Pishill with Stonor

- **B470 Flooding / Assendon Spring:** OCC asked SODC to update landowners on responsibilities to desilt roadside ditches. Once this is carried out, OCC will recut verge side grips. Large pothole can only be repaired after drainage work is carried out so traffic management will remain in place. OCC will also consider long term solutions in addition to recutting verge side grips.

Watlington

- **Charlotte Coxe Trust:** Work to improve energy rating of 33 High Steet to go ahead. Ongoing liaison between OCC and WPC to resolve outstanding issues on transfer of trust.
- **Red Kite View to Cuxham Road path:** Bloor to apply for road closure/traffic management to carry out the work. Bloor have requested an 'early start' on road space permitting.
- **Relief Road:** Consultation on planning application has closed. Officers are working to include responses of consultees in application. Planning application will not be determined until after May & June.
- **Road closures:** Upcoming closures include,
 - Brook Street for 2 weeks from 24/05 (This will operate weekdays between 20:00 and 06:00hrs). The closure is for resurfacing work.