



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

July 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> June: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 6<sup>th</sup> June: Shirburn Parish Meeting
- 7<sup>th</sup> June: Watlington & Pyrton Parish Councils (site visit)
- 7<sup>th</sup> June: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee Meeting, Oxford
- 30<sup>th</sup> June: Watlington Parish Council & NPC (Watlington 2030)
- 30<sup>th</sup> June: Residents of Swyncombe Parish

### Upcoming meetings:

- 1<sup>st</sup> July: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 11<sup>th</sup> July: Lewknor Parish Council
- 12<sup>th</sup> July: Full Council, Oxford
- 12<sup>th</sup> July: Watlington Parish Council
- 13<sup>th</sup> July: Ewelme Parish Council
- 14<sup>th</sup> July: Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, Oxford
- 14<sup>th</sup> July: Berrick Salome Parish Council

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### OCC news:

**Full Fibre Broadband for rural communities:** OCC will be rolling out projects 'gigbit' and 'gigahubs' (who comes up with these names?) - government initiatives to deliver broadband to communities missed out by commercial providers. Britwell Salome village hall, Chalgrove and Watlington surgeries, and Watlington libraries were initially

identified as locations to include in the scope of the project. Nettlebed village club, Pyrton village hall, and Russells Water village hall have now also been added to the list.

**Didcot road (HIF1):** The cabinet of OCC have agreed to proceed with Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 ('HIF1'), consisting of 4 road / bridge projects around Didcot. While it is an inherited Conservative project, the Lib-Dem led administration worked to improve provision for active travel and public transport, as well as better mitigate cost risks to the council

**ANPR:** Oxfordshire is one of the first places in the country to be given extra powers to enforce traffic violations using ANPR. It is the first time anywhere outside of London and Cardiff have been given these powers.

**Vision Zero:** Following the tragic deaths of cyclists in Oxfordshire, the county has adopted 'Vision Zero', a vision to eliminate road deaths and serious injuries in the county. The decision adds weight to efforts to improve cycle and walking infrastructure and reduce speeds

**Bus improvements:** The cabinet approved a plan to improve bus services and use the £12.7 million Oxfordshire secured from national government. The plan includes cheaper fares for under-19s, 2 new rural services (around Didcot and Bicester), and bus priority improvements and traffic filters (in Oxford). Improvements to bus stops, real time information, and the quality of buses are also planned. The plan will be consulted on with the Bus companies and needs government sign off.

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## Parish round-up

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

### Chalgrove

- **Trees for monument road junction:** Officers have been assessing the suitability of monument road junction with the B4009

### Ewelme:

- **Surface dressing Eyre's Lane:** OCC is surface dressing Eyre's Lane. Work is estimated to take place 1<sup>st</sup> July, weather dependent and involves a 2-hour road closure.

### Great Milton

- **Grass cutting:** Following reports from local residents, OCC will cut back grass at the junction of The Forties and Windmill Hill to improve visibility. The area has been added to the program for next year.
- **Lower End:** Work to the gully/drainage is programmed for 3<sup>rd</sup> August

## Great Haseley

- **War memorial renovation:** Plans to renovate the war memorial are ongoing, including liaising with the fire service to gain access to a hydrant

## Shirburn

- **Footpath 'siding out':** OCC has agreed to clear the footpaths from the Pyrton Lane junction to Shirburn that have become overgrown and impassable. The work will take place from 4-8<sup>th</sup> July and will require temporary traffic lights

## Swyncombe

- **Loss of Gillott's School Bus:** A decision to stop the Spare Seat Scheme for the Gillott's school bus will result in the ending of the service. Transport will be withdrawn from the Watlington, Christmas Common, Cookley Green, Park Corner, Nettlebed and Fairmile stops from September 2022. I am engaging with local residents and county officers on the issue to find a resolution.

## Lewknor:

- **Weston Road Crescent:** OCC is working to fill the ditch on the Weston Road crescent with 'grasscrete' and replace some round curbs with angled curbs. The work will allow large vehicles (e.g., bin lorries) to overrun the verge when needed whilst discouraging routine overrunning.

## Nettlebed

- **Puddingstone information board:** OCC has repaired the board and corrected some sharp screws sticking out

## Watlington

- **Edge road:** OCC has confirmed that the Watlington Relief Road scheme has no plans to amend or alter the current weight restriction that is enforced around Watlington, and that the Watlington Relief Road will remain within the existing area weight restriction band which is currently 7.5 tonnes.
- **Charlotte Coxe Trust:** A meeting of the Charlotte Coxe Trust committee in Oxford, decided to continue with the new committee format for taking decisions for the trust, and to consider at a future date handing the trust to a third party (e.g. Watlington Parish Council). The committee also agreed to request to raise the rent paid by OCC to the Trust for the library
- **Street lights:** I submitted a question to the cabinet member for highways to request him to write to SSE who still have not fixed the broken street lights by the industrial estate and Marlbrook estate.