



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

November 2021

Welcome to my monthly update. I share a regular update in the first week of every month. In the interests of transparency and sharing good ideas I will be sharing this update publicly as well as with parish councils in Chalgrove and Watlington division.

My recent meetings

- 5th October: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 5th & 6th October: Watlington Parish Council & OCC cycling champion
- 7th October: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 11th October: Lewknor Parish Council
- 12th October: Watlington Parish Council
- 13th October: Little Milton Parish Council
- 14th October: First Steps, Chalgrove
- 18th October: Great Milton Parish Council
- 19th October: OCC Cabinet
- 20th October: Britwell Salome Parish Meeting
- 26th October: Rainbow Nursery, Watlington
- 27th October: Berrick Salome Parish Council
- 29th October: Watlington and Pyrton Parish Councils and SODC

Upcoming meetings:

- 2nd November: Full County Council, Oxford
- 4th November: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 8th November: Great Haseley Parish Council
- 9th November: Watlington Parish Council
- 10th November: Brightwell Baldwin Parish Meeting
- 11th November: Berrick Salome Parish Meeting

If there are meetings you would like to invite me to please get in touch: freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OCC news:

New 20mph policy approved: OCC has finally launched its much-anticipated new 20mph policy. The policy has been widely welcomed by campaign groups, parishes, and residents. A [website](#) has been launched with more information on how the policy will work

Bid for government funding for buses: The county will bring forward an [ambitious new plan](#) to improve buses in Oxfordshire. The plan includes proposes for a new 'South Oxfordshire Chilterns' semi-flexible route linking Wallingford to Thame via Ewelme, Britwell Salome, Watlington, Pyrton, Lewknor, the Miltons and the Haseleys. Funding for these services will be dependent on the bid for £56 million from the government being successful.

New Local and Transport Connectivity Plan: A [new plan](#) was approved at cabinet to promote cycling, walking and low-carbon transport in the county. It sets a goal of replacing one in every three car trips by 2040. Nestled within the plan is a new freight strategy that includes proposals for reducing inappropriate movements of HGVs through villages. The next step for the plan is to hold a public consultation, with final adoption scheduled for spring 2022.

Rough sleeping plan: A new homelessness prevention strategy was approved by Cabinet. The strategy involves rapid response when someone becomes at risk, and a focus on individual needs and circumstances to provide greater levels of support.

Warning on social care funding: Cllr Calum Miller, cabinet member for finance has issued a [warning](#) that unless the chancellor provides more money for adult social care and special educational needs councils will have no choice but to raise council tax so that we can continue to provide the care needed for vulnerable residents. Rather than 'solving' the crisis in care, the national insurance hike announced by the government will *increase* costs for local authorities.

Civil parking enforcement: OCC enforcement of on-street parking offenses comes in this month, from 1st November.

Parish round up

Not all parishes are covered – below is a selection of the main updates I have worked on this month.

Berrick Salome:

- **Traffic calming:** OCC is proposing to support the parish with funding to help reduce speeds as drivers enter key points in the parish. I am working closely with the parish on bringing forward additional plans

Britwell Salome

- **Speed survey to take place:** Following a meeting with OCC highways officers on-site in Britwell Salome it was agreed to carry out a speed survey at two points on the B4009. Results will inform a strategy to reduce speed through the village. Signs warning HGVs not to use unsuitable roads will also be upgraded.

Chalgrove:

- **First steps children's center:** In October I was welcomed by staff at First Steps in Chalgrove. First steps is one of the few surviving children's centers in the area, taking in children from across the area as far as Benson and Stokenchurch. I will be supporting the center with a grant from the cllr priority fund

Cuxham

- **Traffic calming:** 20mph signs will go up between the 15th and 17th November, with the vegetation being cut back the week before.

Great Haseley

- **Funding for goalposts:** Cllr priority funding has been provided to purchase football goal posts for the rec.

Lewknor

- **Postcombe speed survey results:** A speed survey took place on the A40 in Postcombe at the end of September. The results show that motorists are regularly exceeding the 30mph limit on this stretch of road through the village. I will be working with Lewknor PC to suggest ways to address this

Little Milton

- **HGVs:** The county brought forward its new Freight Strategy (part of the new Local and Transport Connectivity Plan) in October. I spoke at cabinet, along with the chair of Little Milton parish council, to emphasize the inappropriate HGV movements through the village. The document will now go to public consultation.

Nettlebed

- **Brick Kiln:** OCC owns the brick kiln, which needs weeding around it to protect the kiln from damage. I'm liaising with OCC to get the work done
- **OCC furniture store:** I am looking into the status of the OCC owned furniture on Old Camp Road with the parish council. The site is in an unsatisfactory state and needs resolving

Watlington

- **Cycling:** A series of meetings were held with the parish and with OCC officers to support Watlington's ambitions to improve cycling and walking within and to the town. Discussions included reviving the idea of the Watlington to Lewknor cycle path, and creating a local walking and cycling infrastructure plan (LCWIPs) for the town