



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

January 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

- 8th December: Swyncombe Parish Council

Upcoming meetings:

- 6th January: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 10th January: Great Haseley Parish Council
- 11th January: Watlington Parish Council
- 12th January: Little Milton Parish Council
- 13th January: Shirburn Parish Meeting
- 28th January: Fire & Rescue Service, Watlington

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

OCC news:

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Consultation: Proposals to improve provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities will go to public consultation, from 10 January to 7 March.

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance feels it is vitally important the county improves on decades of insufficient provision by successive Conservative led administrations. The consultation will be promoted widely, with 5 online events to take place in February.

The consultation will inform (1) a new Local Area SEND Strategy and (2) the Council's SEND System Reform. The consultation will be run on the [Lets Talk](#) platform

Oxfordshire youth services set to return: County youth services are set to return for the first time since they were scrapped by the Conservatives in 2011. Funding will be provided as part of the Lib-Dem/Green led Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance's new budget. The new 'Youth Offer' will provide targeted support and outreach to young people, focusing on early intervention to reduce risk of exploitation, substance misuse, exclusion, housing issues, as well as improving mental wellbeing.

The new service is a first step towards universal youth work being openly available to all children and young adults. Oxfordshire's new Youth Offer will be delivered through the recruitment of 22 dedicated youth workers across the County. Four workers will operate in each district, with 2 county wide youth workers. The service aims at being operational by the end of February 2022. Details of the offer [here](#)

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) - Consultation: The LTCP will go to public [consultation](#) from 5 January 2022 until 16 March 2022. The transport [plan](#) sets out a vision to deliver a zero-carbon transport network by 2040, tackle inequality, protect the environment and improve the health and wellbeing of residents. The LTCP also includes the Freight Strategy (covering HGVs).

HGV motion & plan to limit movements: A [motion](#) was passed at full council in December. The motion stated that many rural roads were not made for HGV traffic and resolves to base the new freight strategy on the principle of "avoid-switch-improve". The council agreed to establish a regional network of well-served HGV through routes and bring in measures to reduce movements through rural roads. Full motion found [here](#) (item 13)

On January 5th, the Cabinet member for travel and development strategy, Cllr Duncan Enright, approved a [recommendation](#) (item 4) to 'push ahead' with developing area wide restrictions in Oxfordshire. At the same meeting, a decision was made to end the HGV experimental limit in Burford in favour of a holistic county wide approach.

Libraries and heritage strategy 2022-2027 - consultation: Oxfordshire County Council will publish a draft heritage and libraries [strategy](#) on January 24, after the council's cabinet agreed it should be released for consultation. The strategy sets out an increased focus on the social and cultural health and wellbeing of the community. Following years of cuts and threats to libraries it is pleasing to see libraries once again being given the recognition they deserve for the role they play in our communities.

Oxfordshire best performing county for waste disposal: Oxfordshire County Council has once again been named as the [best performing county](#) council for waste disposal in England.

Parish round up

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

Berrick Salome:

- **30mph for Braze Lane junction:** Unfortunately, an amendment that would have extended a proposed 30mph limit for a new roundabout in Benson ([item 13](#)) to the Braze Lane junction was not successful. However, I work with the parish and county to ensure a 30mph limit is included as part of the Benson relief road.
- **Priority funding for village hall improvements:** An award has been made to Berrick Salome to support Village Hall car park improvements.

Chalgrove:

- **Restricted byway at recreation ground:** The registration of a restricted byway was confirmed by the Secretary of State despite going to appeal. The county has written to the parish to answer a number of concerns regarding potential impact on the skate park and other facilities and has agreed to take a pragmatic approach and not require any immediate changes
- **Priority funding provided to First Steps:** A grant of £4,500 has been awarded to First Steps to support with their operational costs and various projects

Ewelme

- **Solar panels for Watercress Beds Centre:** A grant application to OxFutures was successful for solar panels. This will complement money already committed from the councillor priority fund to allow the panels to be installed.

Nettlebed

- **Brick kiln cleared:** Work to clear debris and foliage around the brick kiln was completed by OCC in November

Watlington

- **Pyrton Lane traffic calming:** The consultation for the proposed traffic calming has closed. The proposals will now go to the cabinet member for highways, Cllr Tim Bearder, for a [decision](#) on 27 January
- **Watlington-Oxford 11 bus extended:** An additional journey has been added to the 11 service to Oxford. This means there are now 3 peak-time arrivals in Oxford at 6.46, 7.52 and 8.46 (Mon-Fri)