

# Oxfordshire County Council Parish Briefing

## 1. MINI workers sign up for free NHS Health Check

The latest round of NHS Health Checks organised by our Public Health team saw 300 workers sign up at MINI Plant Oxford.

The free checks were designed to be a 'taster' to the full NHS Health that aims to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia.

These were held over five days at the Cowley plant in collaboration with the BMW Group Global healthy heart campaign, which shares information on nutrition, exercise and heart health.

Staff at BMW were full of praise for the collaboration and look forward to a continued partnership with Public Health. Also present were colleagues from Achieve Oxfordshire, which promotes healthy weight loss, the stop smoking service Smokefreelife Oxfordshire and Active Oxfordshire.

There was a particularly strong sign-up in the male aged 40-55 category, where there has previously been a shortfall in uptake across the county. Find out more here.

Contact: Stephen Pinel, Health Improvement Principal for Public Health,  
[stephen.pinel@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.pinel@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## 2. Celebrating a caring Oxfordshire couple during Shared Lives week

Oxfordshire couple Sue and Tim Clayton have been rewarded for 25 years' dedication to the Shared Lives scheme when their long service was recognised at the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers awards.

Shared Lives is funded by the county council and allows adults in need of practical and emotional support to live their lives more fully and independently and feel part of a family household.

Shared Lives Carers provide anything from occasional short breaks or daytime support through to a longer-term, full-time arrangement. There are currently 80 carers providing a home for about 120 adults in the county and the Shared Lives team is keen to recruit more as it celebrates Shared Lives Week.

All carers receive ongoing support and training from social workers to ensure delivery of high-quality, person-centred care.

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### **3. Pilot project could restrict traffic outside Oxfordshire schools in a bid to reduce air pollution**

The county council is considering the possibility of launching a 'School Streets' pilot project. The project aims to reclaim roads outside schools from traffic at the start and end of each day, reducing air pollution outside the school gates and making it easier for children to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

Two years ago, the east London borough of Hackney developed a blueprint for restricting traffic outside schools at opening and closing times.

Seven schools are participating and since the launch of 'School Streets', the proportion of children cycling to school has increased by more than 50 per cent, with traffic outside the school gates reducing by around two-thirds.

'School Streets' projects have also been a success in Solihull and Edinburgh, with traffic flows reduced and plans in place to expand the schemes.

Following a successful Oxfordshire Schools Clean Air Network seminar at County Hall on Clean Air Day, six Oxfordshire schools have already expressed interest in joining the pilot.

Find out more about the project here.

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### **4. Help at hand for residents applying to the European Union settlement scheme**

Support is being offered to EU, EEA or Swiss citizens applying for settled or pre-settled status in the UK. Residents completing the ID verification process to the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) can get help at the Oxford Register Office and 16 libraries across the county.

Residents completing an online application are required to scan their identity documents using a compatible Android phone or tablet.

If their device doesn't have near field communication (NFC), they can visit one of 16 libraries to make use of an Android device to complete the first part of the application process; scanning your documents. Once this is completed, they can complete the application on any device or computer.

Residents requiring assistance to scan their documents can drop into the Oxford Register Office, where staff are providing support. Find out more about the EU settlement scheme here.

Contact: Kate Macleod, Assistant Director Cultural Services, [kate.macleod@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.macleod@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## 5. NHS announces Oxfordshire will be part of new joined-up health and care system

Oxfordshire is to be part of a new 'integrated care systems' created by the NHS in England to improve health and social care services. The new joined up care system also covers Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West.

The NHS and local authorities in the three areas aim to deliver a person-centred vision for health and care services, making sure services are planned and delivered as locally as possible. Health and care organisations will work collectively to bring better health outcomes for people and ensure effort is not duplicated or resources wasted.

Following the announcement by the NHS, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council and Chairman of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board said:

"The move to integrated care across the country gives us the opportunity to really make a difference for our residents and communities. Locally, I'm convinced that working together in partnership with the NHS we will deliver huge benefits to the health and care system and will improve the health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's residents."

### About integrated care systems

Local services can provide better and more joined-up care for patients when different organisations work together in this way. For staff, improved collaboration can help to make it easier to work with colleagues from other organisations. Integrated care systems can better understand data about local people's health, allowing them to provide care that is tailored to individual needs.

By working alongside councils and drawing on the expertise of others such as local charities and community groups, the local authorities and the NHS can help people to live healthier lives for longer, and to stay out of hospital when they do not need to be there.

Find out more about Oxfordshire's involvement [here](#) and integrated care systems [here](#).

## 6. Moving forward with housing infrastructure funding bids

Oxfordshire County Council is now concluding contract negotiations in the next few months to formally secure infrastructure funding relating to four strategic transport projects in the Didcot Garden Town area. This relates to our successful Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) £218 million bid announced in the Spring Statement.

The county council is also working with Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Highways England to complete the clarification stage of its £102m HIF bid projects associated with the A40 between Witney and Oxford, known as the A40 smart corridor. Consultants acting on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council have submitted a planning application for a proposed park and ride site, located on the A40 north-west of Eynsham and the first components of the scheme, which aims to:

- Support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality;
- Reduce transport emissions and meet our obligations to Government;
- Protect, and where possible enhance Oxfordshire's environment and improve quality of life
- Improve public health, air quality, safety and individual wellbeing.

We are hopeful of hearing the outcome of the bid in the next few months. If we are successful in this second HIF bid, it will mean we'll have secured £535 million of infrastructure funding for Oxfordshire since signing the Growth Deal in just over a year.

The Growth Deal is now in its second year of delivery and £30m of investment was achieved in the first year. Work is continuing to deliver infrastructure investment across over forty individual schemes in the County.

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## **7. Major progress on improving Oxfordshire's roads**

Repairs and improvements on Oxfordshire's roads continue with more than 34,000 potholes repaired over the last year, a 45 per cent increase on the previous year - and there's more major repairs to come over the summer.

The county council recently announced an extra £13m for road maintenance for this financial year on top of its existing £18.5m programme of work – this follows last year's additional £12m boost. The strategy is paying off with 34,159 potholes repaired compared to 23,486 the year before.

This year's additional money will be spent across Oxfordshire's towns and villages on resurfacing, drainage, bridge repairs and footways.

Last year's extra cash saw more than 37 extra miles of road being resurfaced through a range of methods which also included surface dressing and micro-asphalting – both of which make road surfaces waterproof and extend their life.

Contact: Owen Jenkins, Director of Community Operations, [owen.jenkins@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:owen.jenkins@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **8. Major investment in improving Oxford's Botley Road**

Oxfordshire County Council is planning to spend £9.1m on measures on Botley Road in Oxford that will include bus, cycle and pedestrian improvements. The plans include bus priority measures and major cycle improvements to create a safer and continuous route along the corridor. This includes changes to several junctions along the route, notably restricting access to some side roads, where there have been collisions with cyclists, and additional cycle lanes.

Also proposed is a more consistent and improved footpath, including additional crossings, which will benefit pedestrians. Surface repairs and improvements will be carried out to enhance the condition and ride quality of the road to benefit of all users.

Public consultation on the proposals has recently been completed. Construction is currently scheduled to start from spring 2020 with some advanced works from January 2020.

More information can be found at here: Contact: Susan Halliwell, Director for Planning and Place [susan.halliwell@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.halliwell@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards



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