



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

September 2023

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

### Upcoming meetings:

- 5<sup>th</sup> September: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 7<sup>th</sup> September: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 11<sup>th</sup> September: Lewknor Parish Council
- 12<sup>th</sup> September: OCC Full Council, Oxford
- 12<sup>th</sup> September: Watlington Parish Council
- 13<sup>th</sup> September: Place Scrutiny Committee, Oxford
- 13<sup>th</sup> September: Little Milton Parish Council
- 14<sup>th</sup> September: Berrick Salome Parish Council

\*\*\*\*\* OCC NEWS\*\*\*\*\*

**New proposed rural bus services:** OCC's 2023-24 budget included £800,000 for the provision of improved rural transport. For many communities this will herald the return of public transport coverage for the first time since 2016. Buses are likely to take the form of a minibus (16 seats), depending on demand and responses to tenders. OCC has reached out to parish councils for views on possible new services from Watlington to Thame and Reading. Comments should be sent to OCC by 29th September to [communitytransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitytransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

**Community Transport Grants:** OCC has launched new grant funding to support new and improved community transport provision. A total of £250,000 is available for the wider Oxfordshire area, with a maximum per application of £50,000. Grants can be for scheduled bus service using volunteers, a minibus scheme, voluntary car schemes or a wheel to work scheme. Deadline for applications: 29th September 2023. Questions can be sent to [communitytransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitytransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Apply to get EV charging points:** Local councils and community organisations are being invited to 'express an interest' in hosting an electric vehicle micro-hub. Examples of suitable locations include village halls, community centres, community pubs and shops, schools and places of faith. EV charging points will be installed for free by OCC, with funding from the government. Deadline: 15 September. Apply [here](#)

**OCC to decarbonise vehicles:** Funding has been made available to switch OCC's fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles, in line with the council's 2030 [climate action framework](#). The switch will also provide an opportunity to modernize OCC's fleet management.

**Empty properties for Ukrainians:** People with vacant properties are encouraged to consider letting them to Ukrainian refugees. People with suitable properties will receive, one month rent in advance, a security deposit payment; and a £1,000 thank you payment. Contact: [oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk)

**Trial of longer lasting road surface:** A west Oxfordshire road was resurfaced with a high performance [material](#) to test the product's ability to increase the life of a highway.

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

**Views sought on adult social care workforce:** [Survey](#) live until 12 September

\*\*\*\*\*GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING\*\*\*\*\*

**Councillor priority fund:** Open for applications

**Community Capacity Grants:** The Community Capacity Fund will open for grant applications from 6<sup>th</sup> September. Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are funded by OCC and applications processed by [Oxfordshire Community Foundation](#). Grants are given to projects that "support people to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible"

**Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund:** Government run fund, where eligible organisations can apply for between £10,000 and £75,000. [Applications](#) by 16 October

**Hardship fund:** OCC's hardship fund ([Resident Support Scheme](#)) was launched in June. Phone: 01865 804171

**Police and crime commissioner grants:** [Applications](#) open to help prevent crime. Closes 11<sup>th</sup> September

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

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

**Berrick Salome**

- **Footpath cleared:** Footpath between Rokemarsh and Benson cleared of vegetation.

### **Chalgrove**

- **Ridgepoint:** OCC officers have raised again with senior management of Ridgepoint the issue of mud on the highway.

### **Cuxham:**

- **Damage to railings:** Damaged railings in Cuxham are due to be fixed.

### **Great Milton**

- **Broadband:** Provision of megafast broadband to the Pavilion to go ahead with cabling underground

### **Watlington**

- **Road closure:** Closure of part of Shirburn road will be close, 4-6 September, 20.00-6.00 (night-time only), for work by Thames Water and Airband
- **Red Kite View to Cuxham Road path:** Bloor have provided revised plans to OCC. OCC are reviewing as a priority.
- **Christmas Common Flooding:** Drainage contractors have cleared gulley's which should now be functioning correctly.
- **Watlington Relief Road:** Planning application expected towards end of October.