



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

June 2023

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

### Upcoming meetings:

- 14<sup>th</sup> June: Ewelme Parish Council
- 19<sup>th</sup> June: Great Milton Parish Council
- 20<sup>th</sup> June: Residents Forum (Middle Ground Traveller Site)
- 20<sup>th</sup> June: Shirburn Parish Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> June: Watlington Parish Council
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Watlington, 'Let's go net zero'

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

**Town and Parish Council Charter:** OCC is looking at developing a 'Town and Parish Council Charter'. Recognizing the importance of town and parish councils (incl. parish meetings) in local government, the charter would aim to strengthen how OCC works town and parish councils. The charter will be co-created through a process of engagement, kicking off in July.

**Unpaid carers strategy:** OCC has developed a new [unpaid carers strategy](#), the final version of which is being consulted on via [Let's Talk](#). The strategy aims to better identify where carers are, increase awareness of the support available to unpaid carers and increase the level of support.

**Supply chain emissions policy:** OCC has developed a new policy on reducing carbon emissions as a result of procurement activity. A decision on the policy is due at Cabinet on 20 June.

**Rail link feasibility study completed:** A feasibility [study](#), commissioned by OCC, for a new rail link between Oxford, Witney and Carterton has been published. The study

found that a rail link would be feasible and could be justified in transport strategy terms. The route would cost £700 - £900 million and require government funding.

**New chair of council and cabinet member:** Cllr Felix Bloomfield (Conservative, Benson and Crowmarsh) has been elected chair of the council, while Cllr Michael O'Connor (Labour, University Parks) takes over the cabinet portfolio for public health and inequalities

**Proposed move for OCC:** OCC is looking to rationalise its property portfolio. As part of this, OCC is looking at moving its Oxford City presence from County Hall to Speedwell House. Usage of the historic part of County Hall would continue.

**Oxfordshire big green week:** Get involved with [Green week](#), June 10-18

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

**Councillor priority fund:** Open for applications

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

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

### **Chalgrove**

- **High street safety:** A meeting was held with officers to review parking and traffic safety on the high street.

### **Cuxham:**

- **B480 flooding:** Work to alleviate flooding and ponding on the B480 will start June 12<sup>th</sup>. Work will include replacing current 'off-lets' with 'gully pots', grates and pipework, as well as improvements to drainage ditches. Two way temporary traffic signals will be in place

### **Great Haseley**

- **Back way:** Countryside rights of way team is advising the parish council

### **Great Milton**

- **Broadband:** OCC in discussion with Great Milton Parish Council and BT Openreach on delivery of FTTP for the pavilion

### **Nettlebed:**

- **Wanbourne Lane:** Discussions ongoing with OCC on reducing highway intrusion of hedging

## Lewknor

- **Manor Close land gap:** OCC have been attempting to contact Beeks to resolve the issue and are continuing to reach out.
- **Lewknor interchange:** National Highways have formally 'paused' their planning for improvements to bus, walking and cycle infrastructure due to cost constraints. They will not revisit the plans until 2025.
- **OCC response to Neighbourhood Plan:** OCC's response emphasises importance of Lewknor interchange as a transport hub

## Stonor with Pishill

- **Bix duals:** The Bix duals (A4130) were surfaced dressed on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This work helps to elongate the lifecycle of a road surface and will reduce pothole formation. An error was made in not communicating the work to the parish (due to the boundaries of county divisions), which the council apologies for. Further work is scheduled for 12-14 June

## Watlington

- **Potholes:** Defects reported on Hill Road (by car park) have been mostly fixed, but I have flagged to officers that some remain. I've also highlighted Spring Lane and Britwell Road.
- **SID pole:** A pole has been erected on Howe Hill to accommodate SID signs