

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS APR 2022 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

FARMERS PROTEST AT CABINET MEETING – WITH JEREMY CLARKSON!



In December, the LibDem/Green/Labour administration at OCC forced through a motion at Full Council to “*ensure that food provided at **all** council-catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based.*” The motion also sought to “*ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least **two** days per week.*” In the face of a wall of negative publicity, including a demonstration by local farmers at County Hall that over-shadowed the council’s budget-setting meeting on 8th February, the officer report published on 7th March massively scaled back the proposals. It recommended that the vegan diet was only to be imposed on councillors at Full Council meetings six or seven times a year and on the general public at civic events, with officers entirely exempt. A ‘graduated approach’, starting with one day per week, was to be applied to schools. The report was approved by Cabinet on 15th March, despite strong Conservative opposition. Once again, there was a large protest outside by farmers – including Jeremy Clarkson – as the meeting took place.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Efforts to unpick the agreement between OCC and Cherwell District Council continue.

INTERNATIONAL TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY

On Thursday 31 March OCC celebrated the annual international Trans Day of Visibility (TDoV), which is dedicated to recognising the resilience and accomplishments of trans and non-binary people and raising awareness of discrimination and struggles faced by the trans community.

FIRE AND RESCUE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

A four-year community risk management plan (CRMP) has been launched by OCC's Fire and Rescue Service as part of its commitment to reduce dangers from fires and other emergencies. The CRMP details priorities until 2026, divided into four categories: response, prevention, protection, and people and wellbeing. The plan's objectives include:

- Becoming a more diverse workforce.
- Targeting residents most at risk from fires and accidents.
- Reducing risks in commercial buildings and acting when dangerous situations are found.
- Maximising resources to provide the quickest responses to emergency calls.

FOCUS ON OXFORD CITY

A large number of initiatives focusing on the city of Oxford have been announced or continue. These include: electric buses; e-cargo bikes; zero emission city grant; Folly Bridge repairs; Kennington improvement programme; Oxford City Football Club land issues.

WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE SET FOR OXFORDSHIRE FINALE

The 2022 Women's Tour, an international women's cycling stage race, will end with an Oxfordshire finale in June. Stage six will start in Chipping Norton before culminating in Oxford city centre. OCC is one of race organiser SweetSpot's sponsors.

RESIDENTS URGED TO FOLLOW THE CODE AND 'SCRAP' FLY TIPPING

The Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, made up of all the councils in Oxfordshire, has launched a campaign to SCRAP fly tipping by making sure people know their responsibilities when it comes to disposing of their waste.

Residents are being urged to follow the SCRAP code, developed by the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, to avoid fines and prosecution:

- **S**uspect all waste carriers.
- **C**heck with the Environment Agency through its [website](#) or on 03708 506 506 that the provider taking waste away is licensed.
- **R**efuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away.
- **A**sk what will happen to your waste.
- **P**aperwork should be obtained – such as a detailed invoice, waste transfer note or full receipt.

PRIORITIES OF LIBDEM/GREEN/LABOUR ADMINISTRATION

The administration has re-announced its plan for the period of 2022 to 2025. The plan details nine key priorities the council aims to address, including tackling inequalities in the county, the climate emergency and creating more opportunities for children and young people.

Unfortunately, Highways issues such as road repairs and drainage are not mentioned, despite these matters featuring in the majority of emails received by most councillors. Details can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/our-vision-0>