

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2023

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OCC £336,000 SPENDING PLANS FOR ANPR CAMERAS

A recent Oxford Mail report states householders have accused OCC of being “out of touch” after a Freedom of Information request revealed OCC plans to spend £336,000 of taxpayers’ money on replacing Low Traffic Neighbourhood bollards in Oxford with surveillance cameras. The council intends to enforce the existing LTN restrictions in Cowley through the introduction of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, which will issue motorists a fixed penalty notice unless they have an exemption. In the context of the recent 5% increase in Council Tax, some may wonder whether council spending is in line with residents’ expectations.

OXFORD TRAFFIC FILTERS (THE FOUR SECTOR PLAN)

The ‘Traffic Filter’ scheme that will divide Oxford into four sectors for traffic purposes continues to generate controversy. Conservatives are continuing to press that the consultation is re-run.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE STRATEGY 2023-2043 – HAVE YOUR SAY

OCC has seven Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). These centres are very popular, with around a million visits every year. They take in around 40,000 tonnes of waste, and 65.5% of which is recycled. The HWRCs are an important part of the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership's plan to reduce waste, increase recycling, and decrease the amount of waste going into landfills. The HWRCs accept a wide range of materials, which helps to increase recycling. However, the council is careful to consider budgetary constraints and is developing a new HWRC strategy. The results of the recent public consultation are awaited.

UPDATE ON 20MPH SIGN-CHANGING EXERCISE – ‘MINDSET’ NOT ENFORCEMENT

As previously reported, OCC is spending £8m on switching 30mph signs to 20mph signs where requested by town or parish councils. Many such councils have requested the change as it is funded by OCC, and they consider they have nothing to lose. Applications have now topped 200. However, some parish councils are having second thoughts when they realise the £8m could have been spent on road repairs, which have more obvious benefits, and that the 20mph limit is very unlikely to be enforced as the police have objected to the change in most instances. The likely lack of police enforcement was acknowledged in OCC's press release on 27th April, which stated: *“While the council has been working alongside Thames Valley Police, the emphasis is on drivers adhering to the new limits through a change of mindset, rather than enforcement. It is hoped that as 20mph areas become more common, breaking the limit will become socially unacceptable for drivers.”* There is also a concern that people will be lulled into a false sense of security. Data from the Cuxham trial show that the introduction of a 20mph limit resulted in a very small average speed reduction of between 3 and 4 mph, with over 50% of traffic exceeding the 20mph limit.

OCC PAID OVER £350K IN PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS

OCC has paid out £350,920 in personal injury compensation over the last year. There were 135 personal injury claims submitted to the council from April 2022 to April 2023. Amongst the leading causes were falls over carriageway potholes and uneven footways. The figures were released after LegalExpert.co.uk submitted a Freedom of Information request.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

P22/S4613/MPO WYEVALE 40 DWELLINGS

Disappointingly, the officer is minded to refuse the 'Planning Obligation Modification' to remove the speed limit change and gateway feature on the advice of OCC Highways. The PC may wish to contact the developer to request an appeal if the application is refused.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE S278 AGREEMENT & P21/S4102/RM

Officers state the S278 Agreement has now been finalised and that work on the footpath will commence this month.

P23/S0752/FUL: LAND AT CORNER OF MILL ROAD AND CROWSLEY ROAD

OCC has changed its sustainability criteria and is recommending refusal based on the accessibility of the site, which it considers poor in the context of the recently adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

'THE BEECHES' UNFINISHED ENTRANCE & FOOTPATH

OCC is to complete the outstanding highway works on the developer's behalf using the security deposit monies. I am pressing for a date when the works will start.

FMS ENQ23952220: FLOODING OUTSIDE CORNER SHOP

The gully has been cleared but the problem remains. I have asked officers to investigate.

FMS 4399140: ROAD SIGNS NEAR MEMORIAL DEMOLISHED BY VEHICLE

Replacement signs have been ordered.

FMS ENQ23945948: BUS STOP OPPOSITE MEMORIAL AVENUE OBSTRUCTED

Mud and vegetation have accumulated in the bus stop on the southbound carriageway of the A4155, preventing buses from pulling in. Clearance work will take place in the near future.

FMS REF ENQ22937870: A4155 TO ORCHARD CLOSE FOOTPATH REPAIR

OCC officers are preparing a quote for this on the basis the PC will match-fund the works.

FOOTPATH FROM NORTHFIELD AVENUE TO BOLNEY LANE

The above footpath is heavily used, and the use will intensify when the 40-house development at Wyevalle is completed. Unfortunately, there is no requirement on the developers of this site to upgrade the footpath as the obligation to do this was placed on the developers of the Thames Farm site. As the Thames Farm completion is years away (if it ever happens), I have asked OCC to get a quote. Works could be joint-funded by the PC and my Councillor Priority Fund. (Once again, we have seen SODC give permission for a development based on the assumption that certain works will be done in advance by other developers. This should not happen)

SPEEDING ISSUES IN PLOUGH LANE AND MEMORIAL AVENUE

Please advise if the PC has responded to OCC officer Jon Beale's email of 26 April 2023 08:43 concerning signage and road markings etc.

WATER TRAVELLERS MOORED UPSTREAM OF SHIPLAKE COLLEGE

I have received representations on this matter but have been advised by OCC officers that it is beyond the council's remit and should be referred to the Environment Agency, the landowner and the tenant.

SHIPLAKE PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

As I am no longer a District Councillor, I cannot progress the matters below and have passed the baton to Cllr Rawlins.

ENFORCEMENT REF: SE22/378 RE P21/S0859/FUL IRIS HOUSE AND STOW HOUSE

ENFORCEMENT REF SE22/363 RE P21/SO835/LDP STATIC CARAVAN AT DOG HOUSE

ENFORCEMENT REF: 388682 RE P21/S4010/FUL THE BEECHES

P22/S4211/HH THE WHITE HOUSE/POPLAR EYOT ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION

P22/S1193/HH - SHIPPING CONTAINER STORAGE AT WILLOWS REACH