

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL [APRIL 2019](#) **FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

GENERAL OCC REPORT

£218M SECURED FOR MAJOR TRANSPORT LINKS IN DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN

OCC, working in close partnership with South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils, was awarded the funding to support the creation of thousands of new jobs and houses, including affordable homes. The successful outcome of the bid was announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, in the Spring Statement and is part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) programme. The package of measures has previously been identified in Local Plans to provide the infrastructure that helps deliver homes. The main schemes for developing Didcot are:

- A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot;
- A new "Science Bridge" over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130;
- A Clifton Hampden bypass

All schemes include improved segregated walking and cycling routes which will give people real travel choice. The lack of suitable crossings over the railway line and river coupled with the success of the Science Vale area has resulted in heavy congestion. Construction is currently programmed for mid-2021 and completion is expected by March 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL BACKS JOINT STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLAN

OCC supports the aspirations of the [Oxfordshire Plan 2050](#), which was out to consultation until 26 March 2019. As part of the Housing and Growth Deal that the six Oxfordshire councils signed with the government, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will consider issues such as housing and infrastructure while also keeping and enhancing Oxfordshire's heritage and natural environment. The plan will also promote public transport, cycling and walking and will make healthy living and wellbeing a priority. The aspirations for Oxfordshire 2050 described in the consultation document also include supporting economic growth, improving housing availability and increasing transport connectivity across the county. In its submission to the consultation OCC's response included:

- Greater emphasis on the need for an increase in sustainable modes of travel, and to enhance messages around public health and the environment
- Highlight the need for charging points for electric vehicles into all premises together with full fibre broadband
- Focus on the need to ensure that cycling and walking levels and traffic reduction are radically improved

There will be another round of consultation in the summer, which will cover: place-shaping principles, policy options including levels of housing and employment growth, and broad locations for new development.

DELIVERING AN OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY FOR OXFORDSHIRE

A strategy setting out how agencies will work together to deliver a positive future for the county's older population has been approved. '[Living Longer, Living Better: Oxfordshire's Older People's Strategy](#)' was produced in 2018 following the redesign of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was developed by OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Residents, health and charity organisations, professionals, businesses, the public sector and community groups were engaged in the strategy to ensure it represented the views and aspirations of the population. It includes four themes which emerged during the co-production phase: being

physically and emotionally healthy; being part of a strong and dynamic community; housing, homes and the environment; and access to information and care. The draft strategy went out for wider public consultation between December 2018 and February 2019 and received 236 individual responses. Overall, there was strong agreement with the vision, priorities and outcomes. Following approval by the council's Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board, planning is now under way on delivering the strategy.

COUNCIL SETS OUT PLANS FOR OXFORDSHIRE'S HOME CARE

A review that explored options for the future of home care in Oxfordshire has concluded OCC should not provide its own in-house service but should create a new partnership model. The council purchases home care for adults from the independent market – although this accounts for less than 50% of the total home care places provided in the county. The rest is purchased by self-funders. During the 2016/17 period a number of home care providers exited the market and this prompted councillors to ask for a review of the system including an assessment of whether the council should provide its own service. In addition to creating a new model of partnership with the independent market the report also concluded that the council should develop alternative models of home care and improving outcomes for people receiving rehabilitation and reviewing arrangements for contingencies.

OXFORDSHIRE TO GET BOOST FROM WOMEN'S CYCLE RACE

Oxfordshire can expect economic and health benefits from hosting a stage of the prestigious OVO Energy [Women's Tour professional cycling race](#) on Wednesday, June 12. A stage of the high-profile British cycling event has been secured by the county council and five districts in a three-year deal with race organisers SweetSpot. In a comparable stage in last year's race in Warwickshire, additional local expenditure linked directly to the event totalled £2m by around 100,000 spectators. Nearly two-thirds (63%) came from outside the county and 67% of spectators said they were inspired to cycle more often. This year's stage will start in South Oxfordshire and end at Blenheim Palace. Details of the exact route, which will also pass through the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, will be revealed in the coming weeks. About 100 professional riders will weave their way through towns, villages and rural areas and race highlights will be screened on ITV4. The race itself starts in Suffolk on 10 June, and takes riders across the country in six stages.

JOINT COUNCIL CRACKDOWN ON BLUE BADGE FRAUD

OCC, in partnership with Oxford City Council's anti-fraud team and Cherwell District Council, recently undertook an on-street operation to detect and prevent abuse of the Blue Badge scheme in Oxfordshire last week. During the operation, it was estimated that 1,000 Blue Badges were checked across Oxfordshire, with 21 seized. In Oxford, 600 were checked and 12 seized. Blue Badge misuse is a criminal offence and can result in a fine of up to £1,000 and a criminal record. A Penalty Charge Notice will also be issued to anyone misusing a disabled parking bay. Many Oxfordshire residents rely on their Blue Badge to remain mobile and independent, enabling them to access goods and services that many of us take for granted. Inappropriate use of disabled parking bays can result in Blue Badge holders missing medical appointments, not being able to get out to buy food, or get to work. Every parking space really does matter.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

SIGNAGE AT SHIPLAKE PRIMARY FMS 764229

The officer spoke with Solagen (the manufacturer of the apparatus) on 26th March. They advised that the earliest date they can send a crew to the site is w/c 8th April. I have raised the issue of moving the sign with Matt Archer, Group Manager (Area Operations – South).

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A4155 AT TOWER HOUSE, TRO T6403

A request has been received from 'Thames Water' for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of 'Reading Road (A4155)' whilst 'X1 new water connection' works are carried out. A temporary notice is being made to implement the temporary closures and will operate from the 14/06/2019 to and including 16/06/2019 (any time full closure 24 hours each day). The official diversion is via Crowmarsh Gifford, which may or not be adhered to by HGVs. However, my view is that with respect to light vehicles, southbound traffic from the A4155 would turn left into Station Road and then right into Mill Road, while northbound traffic on the A4155 would turn right into Mill Lane (effectively a single track road) and thence left into Mill Road. The nett result of this would be utter chaos for Shiplake and I am not prepared to accept it as a solution, but am meeting strong resistance from officers, although a site visit has been agreed. I urge the PC to make contact with Owen Jenkins, Director of Community Operations, as a matter of urgency. His email is: owen.jenkins@oxfordshire.gov.uk

TREE CLEARANCE AT LOCK END HOUSE – TPO 19S06

Large-scale tree clearance commenced at Lock End House on Wednesday 27th March. An area TPO was served at lunchtime on Friday 29th March prohibiting further felling for six months as the trees have significant amenity value. Should the PC wish to support this order, it must write to the Forestry Officer **prior to April 26th**. Details as follows:

Matt Gulliford
Forestry Officer
SODC
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Abingdon
OX14 4SB

Tel: 01235 540546

Matt.Gulliford@southandvale.gov.uk

IMPROVING SAFETY ON A4155

The consultation process ends this week. Henley Town Council has objected. The decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment is scheduled for 25 April.

SONNING QUARRY

As previously reported, construction of the junction on the A4155 to the internal road is nearing completion and backfilling will commence soon. It is anticipated this will involve approximately 50 HGVs per day visiting the site. It is likely half will come through Henley/B481 and half through Reading. Test drilling for a potential new site adjacent to Shiplake College is currently taking place (this is in response to the OCC call for potential future sites).

SONNING QUARRY HABITAT MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Habitat Management Group met on Wednesday 13th March at 9.30 am at Sonning Quarry. The restoration process was reviewed and no major problems were identified, although a drainage issue near the Playhatch roundabout was discussed and I later informed relevant officers about the problem and they said it would be addressed.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I attended the Reading Area Transport Forum on 20th March and the bridge was an agenda item. Independently of Oxfordshire councils, Berkshire has commissioned further work to support the 'business case'. The work is being conducted on a pro bono basis by consultants hoping to move the project forward, however officers reported that there had been a delay on starting the report. It will cover 'buildability' and resources, but not 'mitigation measures'.

ROAD SAFETY SIGNAGE

Subsequent to the January PC meeting, I contacted the OCC officer and confirmed:

SIGN A (Pedestrians Crossing): The PC is still awaiting costings.

SIGN B (Unsuitable for HGVs): Is in hand at OCC's expense but the PC still waiting a date for installation.

SIGN C (VAS): Cancelled as per the email from the parish clerk Tue 24/07/2018, 08:44

The officer advised that A was on hold pending the consultation referred to above and that B was in hand but he could not yet confirm the date.

HIGHWAYS PROJECTS/COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

As advised at the March meeting, I received Cllr Head's list of possible Highways projects from the clerk on 12 February and forwarded to officers for costing. These were:

- Renew White lining to the following locations: 1. Mill Road/Station Road; 2. Mill Road/Mill Lane; 3. Mill Lane /A4155
- Plowden way weeding pavement
- War Memorial Surround clear silt etc along kerbing and weeding pavement along A4155
- Clean direction signs on A4155
- Remove small tree on field boundary that obscure vision to the right when exiting Memorial Avenue

The good news is that I have received provisional agreement that OCC Highways will fully fund all this work (ownership of the tree is to be clarified). This means my Councillor Priority Fund for next year is still available.