

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL DECEMBER 2019

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

PROPERTY POLICY HELPS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TAKE OVER COMMUNITY ASSETS

Changes have been approved to OCC's Asset Transfer Policy to give greater clarity when working with community organisations interested in taking on council buildings. OCC owns more than 700 assets including land and buildings. When buildings are not needed for county council purposes consideration is given to leasing out wherever possible. Of these properties which are leased out, 85 are leased to community organisations and provide an income to the council of circa £170k per annum. The revised policy intends to enable greater flexibility to agree appropriate terms with community groups in future transfers, reinforce support for the approach and ultimately maximise the use of assets for community benefit.

“COUNTY LINES” TV DOCUMENTARY FEATURES OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire social workers used a national TV documentary to put the spotlight on gangs and organised crime networks who ruthlessly recruit local children to sell drugs. Children's services know of about 280 children who are, who could be, or have been, at risk of exploitation, who are being supported by its teams across social care, early help and youth justice. The social care and early help teams work in partnership with families, schools, health and the police to protect children from exploitation. They engage children and families in activities, delivering protective behaviours work in schools, including raising awareness in assemblies and plays. For young people who are at higher risk, the teams do specialist intensive one to one work with children, and their parents and families, as well as group work. Working with Channel 4's documentary film makers helped raise awareness of the tell-tale signs of exploitation, and the measures that can be taken to protect vulnerable young people.

GRAPHENE ROAD TRIAL ROLLS OUT IN OXFORDSHIRE

A joint trial is being held by OCC and its contractors, Skanska, to lay and test a fully recyclable, graphene-enhanced asphalt on a 750m stretch of busy main road in Curbridge, near Witney. Graphene is a specially developed ingredient that is added to otherwise ordinary surfacing material and has the potential to extend the life of roads and guard against potholes and other problems. One lane has been resurfaced using conventional materials – effectively acting as the control measure – while the opposite 'trial' lane was resurfaced using the asphalt enhanced by the innovative additive developed by Italian company Iterchimica. Engineers will monitor how the new surface performs and it will take up to two years to get a full picture of how well it compares to the conventional materials.

GRITTERS GEAR UP FOR WINTER WEATHER

OCC's team of over 60 staff are on standby throughout the winter to turn out at all hours to make sure that the priority roads around Oxfordshire are salted and kept as safe as possible during freezing and sometimes treacherous weather. In Oxfordshire OCC grits all A-roads, B-roads and some C-roads. This amounts to 1200 miles per gritting run which is the equivalent of travelling from London to Iceland.

ROLL-OUT OF BROADBAND FOR SMALL BUSINESSES CONTINUES

OCC has announced two new contracts have been signed to deliver ultrafast broadband to 970 SMEs. This follows a successful application to DEFRA for £6.3m of EAFRD funding to improve broadband for businesses in rural parts of the county. The suppliers will also connect some 900

nearby residential premises at their own cost. These are all to be full-fibre connections offering speeds up to 1Gb/s and will bring superfast coverage in Oxfordshire to 98%.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS BACK CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Councillors have approved plans for Oxfordshire County Council to meet its ambitious target of reducing its own carbon footprint to net zero by 2030. 'Climate Action for a Thriving Oxfordshire' explains how the council will achieve this. Details can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/county-councillors-back-climate-action-plan-to-join-green-revolution-in-oxfordshire/>

WINTER PLAN ADVICE FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

OCC is taking a collaborative approach with NHS partners to encourage vulnerable residents to have a personal winter plan. Advice includes:

- Having a free NHS flu vaccination if you are eligible
- Getting help early before your condition worsens
- Getting repeat prescriptions in plenty of time before bank holidays
- Finding out where your local minor injuries unit is located
- Seeking advice from your local pharmacist and having a well-stocked medicine cabinet
- Stocking up on winter food supplies
- Getting your boiler serviced and keeping your home heated to 18C
- Having a list of emergency phone numbers handy by your phone

The Public Health England leaflet 'Keep Warm Keep Well' can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keep-warm-keep-well-leaflet-gives-advice-on-staying-healthy-in-cold-weather>

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

THIRD READING BRIDGE

The chair at Sonning Common has called a meeting of parishes in my Division to consider a joint response to the situation in advance of the MP 'Summit Meeting' in March. I very much hope two representatives from each parish will attend.

Date and time: Friday 31 January 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Venue: Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common RG4 9SL

TIMETABLE AND BUS STOP SIGN OPPOSITE THE PLOWDEN ARMS MISSING

I have obtained agreement from officers for the removal of the concrete post and installation of a new pole, flag and timetable case. To make efficient use of contractors, who charge by the day, this will be combined with other works and will be done as soon as possible.

CLOSURE OF A4155 AT TOWER HOUSE FROM 20 JANUARY 2020 TO 22 JANUARY 2020

Please note the revised dates above for the Thames Water work which will be conducted overnight between 21.00 and 05.00 each day. There will be 'Access Only' signs at Station Road and Mill Lane to prevent rat-running through the village.

ROADWORKS ON A4155 RELATING TO THAMES FARM

Taylor Wimpey commenced works on the public highway on the 21st October. These will continue until the 7th December when they will close down due to the Christmas embargo. The works will then recommence on the 6th January 2020 and will continue until the 16th March.

There will be overnight road closures for a week each side of the Tower House closure referred to above.

IMPROVING SAFETY ON A4155

As previously reported, the speed limit change was implemented on 19th August. Retirement Villages were trying to get the change reversed and the hearing was scheduled for 28th November. They have now abandoned their attempt for a Judicial Review and have agreed to meet OCC costs.

CLOSURE OF MILL ROAD AT SYDNEY HARRISON HOUSE 27 SEPTEMBER

As previously reported, OCC is in contact with SOHA in respect of possible penalty payments for this unlawful closure. I have again chased for an update.

POTENTIAL FOOTPATH AT SHIPLAKE CROSS

I have arranged for officers to contact the PC to discuss the feasibility and costs of the proposal.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

PLANNING: EXPERT WITNESSES & GOVERNANCE

Cllr Pheasant has asked what the process and criteria is for the selection/appointment of expert witnesses for SODC at appeal inquiries and what is the governance procedures/guidance for district councillors and their interaction with land owners/planning applicants. I have asked SODC Planning for a response.