

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL DEC 2020

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OXFORDSHIRE GETS SET TO MOVE TO HIGH COVID ALERT LEVEL

People in Oxfordshire are being urged to continue the good work that has helped reduce the county's COVID cases during November when national lockdown is lifted and new local restrictions are introduced on 2 December. Oxfordshire has been placed into the 'high' alert level (tier 2) by central government. This means that from 2 December:

- People must not meet socially with anybody outside their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- People must not meet in a group of more than six outside, including in a garden or other space.
- Hospitality venues will be allowed to stay open until 11pm – with last orders at 10pm. However, only those that serve substantial meals can operate, and alcohol can only be served with substantial meals.
- Non-essential shops can reopen, as can personal care businesses such as hairdressers, gyms and the wider leisure sector. All businesses and venues that reopen must ensure that COVID-secure measures are in place.

The week up to 20 November saw a drop in infection rates across the county, with a total of 671 confirmed cases – an equivalent of 97 per 100,000 residents, and a decrease from 1,171 the previous week. As before, the local COVID-Secure teams will be out and about across the county to ensure that local businesses are continuing to properly abide by the regulations, such as the 10pm last orders in pubs, bars and restaurants. All businesses and venues must operate in a COVID-secure way. The teams will be given more enforcement powers, being able to issue notices to businesses that fail to adhere to guidance. These notices will not create any new offences for businesses, but enable the teams to take more decisive action to request that businesses formally comply with COVID-secure measures, and provide them with the means to close these premises where they fail to do so, or quickly where they pose a significant risk to the public. In the week leading up to 15 November, the COVID-secure teams across Oxfordshire carried out 69 compliance checks and issued nine written warnings to businesses. Further information is available at www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know.

GOOD NEWS FOR OXFORDSHIRE'S LIBRARY USERS IN DECEMBER AND IN 2021

Libraries and other cultural services in Oxfordshire are set to reopen once the national lockdown ends on December 2. All of the 32 libraries and three heritage sites that had opened pre-lockdown November will reopen again. There's also further good news in that the 12 libraries that had not reopened since the initial lockdown in March 2020 will be opened during January and February 2021. Libraries will close again on December 24 at 4pm for the Christmas period but Banbury, Witney, Henley, Abingdon, and Oxfordshire County will also open 29, 30, 31 December. The Oxfordshire Museum, the Museum Resource Centre in Standlake and History Centre in Cowley will also reopen on December 2. The Oxfordshire Museum will then close during the Christmas period from Monday 21 December 2020 to Wednesday 6 January 2021. The History Service will close to the public Thursday 24 December 2020 12.30 pm and re-open Tuesday 5 January 2021.

STILL TIME TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST THE FLU THIS WINTER

Those eligible for a free NHS vaccination, should contact their local GP or pharmacy. Some Oxfordshire pharmacies offer a bookable and walk-in service, with costs ranging between £13 to £15 for those not eligible for a free vaccination.

'MICRO-SURFACING' PROGRAMME FOR 2020 COMES TO AN END

This year's programme treated 26 sites around Oxfordshire, covering 4.6km of carriageway. 'Micro' is a surface treatment for protecting and prolonging the existing structural integrity of a carriageway for about ten years without the need for more costly and disruptive repairs. The micro programme has a number of advantages over conventional resurfacing:

- It is applied cold, so traffic can often use a treated road just 20 minutes after micro asphalt has been installed.
- More work can be completed during a day, minimising traffic disruption and congestion.
- It seals the surface, keeping out water from the pavement structure and minimising pothole formation.
- It can reshape and re-profile existing surfaces by filling shallow defects such as potholes, cracks and ruts.

Although its initial appearance appears untidy and unfinished, as the treatment receives embedment from passing vehicles, mechanical sweeping to remove excess chippings, and absorption or evaporation of the chemicals within the mixture, the appearance will improve over the following weeks and months.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

OBSCURED/MISSING YELLOW LINES AT JUNCTION OF MILL LANE AND MILL ROAD

The Highways team has now cleared back the debris, reinstated the drainage grips and patched a section by the path to the lock. The OCC coordinating officer has also spoken with the Skanska supervisor for a date for both the 'Dragon Patcher' (to address the surface issues) and line-markers to be on site.

IMPACT OF ROAD WIDENING ON A4155 AT THAMES FARM

The speed survey data has now been supplied to the PC.

STEEL GATE POSTS ON MILL LANE (FERRY LANE) NEAR 'THE DEN'

As previously reported, unauthorised steel gateposts and a gate were erected on Mill Lane. OCC Public Rights of Way gave the person responsible until 15th October to remove them. This was not done and the deadline was extended again to 20th November. This second deadline was not met (other than unhooking the gate) so a formal notice has now been issued with a final deadline of mid-January, after which time enforcement action will be taken and the person responsible will be liable for the costs incurred by OCC. A complaint was also received from Network Rail about concrete blocks being deposited on the lane. The same person was instructed to remove these. Some have now gone and Network Rail have been asked if they are now satisfied or whether they want the remaining blocks to be removed too.

REPAIRS TO MILL LANE VERGES

The agent of the owners of Lock End wrote to the PC on 13 February giving an undertaking to repair the damage to the verges in Mill Lane caused by construction traffic once the project had been completed. I understand the PC has now contacted the agent in respect of this.

ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE T8404, THE GABLES, STATION ROAD

The section of Station Road between Oaks Road and Mill Road will be closed between 28th and 31st December in order that a manhole can be installed. I interceded with regard to ambiguous proposed diversion signage that suggested the whole of Station Road was going to be closed and would have resulted in traffic chaos.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

P20/S1405/FUL LAND ADJACENT TO THE GABLES STATION ROAD

I called-in this proposal is for five flats and a car park. Cllr Pheasant and I spoke at the Planning Committee meeting at the beginning of the month and the application was refused by 8 votes to 2. I am concerned that an early version of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan was quoted by both the developer and the officer as evidence to support the application.

THAMES FARM: P20/S2808/DIS (DRAINAGE)

As previously advised, this drainage proposal from Taylor Wimpey (TW) has major implications for the village. Residents are now well aware of the details and around 150 objections were lodged on the SODC website. There was incredulity that TW had not been asked to undertake a revised Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). TW has now agreed to do this and an updated FRA had been promised for November but my understanding is that it has been delayed until the New Year. I am in ongoing contact with planning officers in relation to this and associated matters.

BULK DOG POO BAG DUMPING IN MILL LANE

Multiple dog poo bags and lager cans have been dumped in the hedge adjacent to the layby at the top of Mill Lane. SODC has been notified. This is a resumption of a previous problem that had disappeared for a few months. A notice has been placed on the website asking residents to be vigilant.