

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL FEB 2022

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

BUDGET

As previously reported, the administration is proposing a large 5% rise in Council Tax. This is disappointing as the previous Conservative-led administration had put in place a Financial Strategy featuring a maximum of a 4% increase in Council Tax for 22/23. The budget includes a large £88m borrowing programme which will cost the council £5.3m a year to service, equivalent to 1.3% of Council Tax receipts. The Budget goes to Full Council for approval on 8th February.

OCC AND CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL TO END FORMAL PARTNERSHIP

The Leader issued an email to all councillors on 18th January, praising the partnership between OCC and Cherwell District Council but also announcing subject to council approval, it was going to end – without giving a reason why. The arrangement between the two councils, which has taken the form of joint services under a single chief executive, has been in place since September 2018. The ending of the partnership would mean that joint chief executive Yvonne Rees will return to her substantive post as CEO for Cherwell District Council from the date of both full council decisions. Recruitment will take place for the post of chief executive for OCC. The costs to the council have not been published, nor the reasons behind the decision made clear. Joint services would remain in place while new arrangements are finalised.

FOCUS ON CITY OF OXFORD & ENVIRONS

A number of measures focusing on the city of Oxford and the immediate area have been announced. These include: Oxford Quickway cycle routes; Face-to-face customer services moving to Westgate library; Cycling and walking improvements for Kidlington; Consultation on Oxford United's request for council land near Kidlington; Work to improve Marsh Lane in Oxford; East Oxford Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs); LTN enforcement cameras in Cowley; Oxford Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ).

OXFORD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SPY CAMERAS

OCC's Cabinet has voted to apply to the government for permission to use spy cameras to enforce traffic regulations in Oxford, including stopping in yellow box junctions, illegal turns, and vehicle restrictions, at specific sites. The first proposed locations are: Oriel Square, Cornmarket Street, Turl Street, Broad Street, High Street, Barton Park, Holywell Street /Longwall Street, New College Lane/Queens Lane, Gloucester Street, Botley Interchange, Hinksey Hill Interchange. Fines will be retained by OCC.

WALLINGFORD CENTRAL BECOMES LATEST 20MPH PILOT SITE

Wallingford Central has become the third 20mph pilot scheme to be unveiled in Oxfordshire. OCC completed the work earlier this month as part of its £8m plans to reduce the speed of the majority of the county's 30mph roads to 20mph, where suitable and when supported by local residents. It followed the installation of 20mph pilot schemes in Cuxham and Long Wittenham in 2021, with more pilot sites planned for Wallingford North and Kirtlington later this year. Through the Localities Group of local councillors, I have asked for clarity about how the success/failure of these pilot schemes will be measured. In particular, I have asked if speed surveys are being undertaken before and after their introduction. It must be remembered that compliance by motorists is effectively voluntary as it will not be enforced by the police.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

FOOTPATH EXTENSION ON PLOUGH LANE, SHIPLAKE CROSS

At the request of the PC, I again asked the Head of Service at OCC to review the proposal. As per my email to councillors of 17th January, he has stated: *"No footway at this location will be acceptable and I cannot approve any decision otherwise."* There is nothing more I can feasibly do in relation to this matter.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE RELATIONSHIP TO P21/S0859/FUL (LAND ADJ TO TOWER HS)

OCC is investigating potential Highways boundary issues relating to the erection of a fence and planting next to where the proposed footpath and retaining wall is to be built. I have arranged a Teams meeting with OCC and SODC officers, and the PC, to discuss this.

GENERAL SODC REPORT

COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME

Cllr Rawlins and I are working cooperatively to fairly distribute grants across the five parishes in our Ward.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

P21/S4102/RM: RETIREMENT VILLAGE RESERVED MATTERS

The officer is recommending approval of the application, which will be determined at the SODC Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd February.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE RELATIONSHIP TO P21/S0859/FUL (LAND ADJ TO TOWER HS)

See OCC report above.

OUTLINE APPLICATION TO CONVERT KINGSLEY HS FROM 4 FLATS TO UP TO 8 FLATS

The officer is recommending approval of the application, which will be determined at the SODC Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd February.

P21/S4616/FUL ERECTION OF 11 DWELLINGS AT REAR OF CROSSWAYS

Despite being rejected when put forward for the JHHNP, an application for this proposal has now been submitted to SODC. I am also advised that an appeal in respect of the previous application for 20 houses will be coming forward.

P21/S4271/RM WYEVALE 40 DWELLINGS

Objections have been received from OCC LLFA, OCC Transport, S&V Drainage, S&V Forestry, S&V Landscape, Thames Water and TVP. An amended application is expected, however the developer has now also submitted a new application for 55 houses – see below.

P21/S5382/FUL WYEVALE 55 DWELLINGS

The developer has now submitted a new application for 55 houses. To accommodate this, the shared green spaces have been removed and three-storey apartment blocks introduced.

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

Following objections from OCC and SODC drainage/flood engineers, Taylor Wimpey withdrew its revised drainage proposal which involved pumping the surface water from the site along the A4155 to a discharge point near Sheephouse Lane. With regard to the ground compacting grouting proposals, Taylor Wimpey submitted an 'Application for a Certification of Lawfulness for Proposed Use or Development to establish that proposed ground stabilisation works... are to be undertaken as part of the foundation works, and which comprise compaction grouting, surface ground compacting and associated works, are lawful pursuant to planning permission P16/S0970/O.' This has been refused by SODC. Lastly, I am awaiting a response from Taylor Wimpey whether there are any plans to tidy up the site which is likely to remain uncompleted for a considerable period.