

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2020

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OXFORDSHIRE IS NAMED TOP WASTE RECYCLER IN ENGLAND

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England for the sixth year in a row, thanks to residents' commitment to the environment. In 2018, residents recycled or composted a larger proportion of their household waste than the previous year, while the national average for recycling fell, according to new government figures. Recycling officers at Oxfordshire County Council point to residents recycling more of their food waste as an important reason for the increase. Nearly 20,000 tonnes of food waste was recycled in 2018-19 – up 6% on the previous year. The district and city councils operate the kerbside collections of household recycling and waste, which OCC then disposes of. Overall 58% of household waste was recycled in Oxfordshire last year, compared to 57% the previous year. The national average was only 44.8%, according to the new figures from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Individually, the five District and City Authorities in Oxfordshire have also achieved excellent results above the national average.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE IMPROVING

Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has made progress in Oxfordshire with senior leaders from the education, health and care services working effectively together. This was the finding of a recent Ofsted review of SEND services following a full inspection in 2017. In the report Ofsted described the leaders as having an 'aspirational vision' for children with special educational needs and disabilities and inspectors found that leaders across the education, health and care system were taking full responsibility to improve the service. "Accountability has been strengthened and there is now a helpful mechanism for overseeing improvement," the inspectors said.

COUNCIL PLANS TO IMPROVE ONLINE SERVICES AND REDUCE CYBER-THREATS

As more people access public services on computers or mobile phones, residents will see real improvements after OCC revealed plans to 'future-proof' its digital systems as part of a two-year overhaul. Councillors approved a new information and communication technology (ICT) strategy, which will lead to investment in smarter, more secure systems and better customer services. OCC's website gets 370,000 page views per week and receives around 1300 online payments per week. A new online Blue Badge application process with credit card payments launched earlier this year. Since then, nearly 70% of applications are online - previously it was 40%. The county council has also signed up to the Government 'local digital declaration'. The declaration was made at the council's Cabinet and commits the county council to designing online services that meet the needs of residents, while protecting their privacy and security.

FREE NASAL SPRAY VACCINATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Parents in Oxfordshire are being urged to have their young children vaccinated against the flu this winter. Children aged two and three can have a free, quick and painless NHS nasal spray vaccine at their GP surgery. In addition, primary school children in Oxfordshire can have the nasal spray vaccine via the school nurse service. For more information on the NHS flu vaccine visit: www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/

HEALTHCARE TEAM WORK TO HELP OLDER PEOPLE RETURN HOME FROM HOSPITAL

Age UK Oxfordshire has joined forces with the NHS to help older people keep well during the colder months in a project backed by OCC. Patients will be given specialist support by Age UK Oxfordshire staff to feel more confident on returning home from hospital and helped with accessing support in the community. Age UK Oxfordshire staff are based at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The support ties in with the health and social care system-wide 'home first' winter plan, which prioritises treating people closer to home and avoiding prolonged hospital stays. Supported by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire County Council, and the South Central Ambulance Service, the system has encouraged this approach with initiatives such as additional support from HART services. Contracted to work with the Trust for a year, the Age UK Oxfordshire team expect to assist with at least four discharges a day. The team are funded by Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

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

ROADWORKS ON A4155 RELATING TO THAMES FARM

The works recommenced on the 6th January 2020 and will continue until the 16th March. There will be overnight road closures (see below).

CLOSURE OF A4155 AT THAMES FARM JANUARY 2020 (TWO PERIODS)

The A4155 between Station Road and the Thames Farm entrance will be closed between 19.30 and 06.00 hours from 13th to 17th January (ref: TTRO T7290) and from 27th to 31st January (ref: TTRO T7291).

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

Please note the 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.

STREET LIGHTING ON A4155 IN RELATION TO THAMES FARM

I have been in discussion with officers and it is now suggested that the number of lighting columns can be reduced from 19 to 13 without compromising safety. This will be a small improvement in terms of light pollution and urbanisation.

CLOSURE OF MILL ROAD AT SYDNEY HARRISON HOUSE 27 SEPTEMBER

As previously reported, OCC has been in contact with SOHA in respect of this unlawful closure. SOHA and its prime contractor are each blaming the other for failure to follow proper process. It has been agreed a letter of apology will be sent to the PC.

YELLOW LINING AT SYDNEY HARRISON HOUSE

Subject to weather conditions, the lining works will take place w/c 20th January.

MILL ROAD RESURFACING

This work, which was previously postponed due to the Sydney Harrison House construction works, will now take place this summer.

POTENTIAL FOOTPATH AT SHIPLAKE CROSS

I arranged for officers to contact the PC to discuss the feasibility and costs of the proposal. I would appreciate an update on the situation as I could contribute towards cost using my Councillor Priority Fund but the closing date is approaching.

UNSUITABLE FOR HGVS SIGNS ON MEMORIAL AVENUE

The traffic officer has reviewed the position of signs at each end of the road and deemed them to be satisfactory. I do not support an additional sign on each side of the road.

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 procedure/guidance for district councillors and their interaction with land owners/planning applicants. I have forwarded the response from SODC Planning to Cllr Pheasant and the Chairman.