

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL JAN 2021

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

KEEP TO TIER 4 DISCIPLINES IN 2021 AS CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

Steep rises in COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire have continued with people being strongly urged enter the New Year strictly abiding by the new tier 4 level of restrictions that came in to force on Boxing Day. Tier 4 is the highest alert level in the national four-tier system, and it means that Oxfordshire residents must stay at home, except for a limited number of purposes. These include essential work that cannot be done from home, buying food, taking exercise, or getting medical treatment. In tier 4, you cannot meet other people socially indoors, unless you live with them or are part of a support bubble. The latest data shows that the virus is continuing to spread rapidly in the county. The weekly rate currently stands at 338.2 per 100,000. The rise is particularly concerning among the over 60s, where cases are continuing to rise in all parts of the county. Hospital admissions are increasing rapidly as a result.

RIVER LEVELS IN OXFORDSHIRE AND GRITTING UPDATES

Heavy rain over Christmas means that high river levels remain in Oxfordshire even though drier and much colder weather has predominated since December 27. Motorists are advised not to attempt to drive through any remaining floodwater as they run the risk of becoming stranded. There is also advice to take care on roads in freezing temperatures and when there is fog. Flood water is not clean and not suitable for children to play in. There might be hidden hazards under the water such as manhole covers that have lifted. Anyone who has been in flood water should wash their hands at the soonest opportunity. OCC has produced a [flooding toolkit](#) which provides advice and support for residents and businesses. it gives information on preparing for instances of flooding. If members of the public need sandbags they should dial 101 or if a life-threatening situation arises dial 999.

SCAMMERS TARGET RESIDENTS WITH PROMISE OF COVID VACCINE

Residents are urged to be on their guard against scammers using the promise of a coronavirus vaccine to con them out of money. Criminals across the country are contacting people out of the blue with offers of a coronavirus vaccination. These approaches have been made by text or from a recorded voice message on the telephone. In each case the recipient is required to respond by clicking a link in the text message or by pressing 1 when receiving the call. They are then asked to give personal information, as well as financial details to book their vaccination. However, these are scams, with criminals exploiting the pandemic to attempt to steal personal details and people's money.

WINTER SUPPORT ROLLED OUT FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Families and individuals struggling with finances or needing help because of COVID-19 this winter can now access support provided by Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, district councils and voluntary and community organisations. Oxfordshire councils have received £1.37 million from the government's new [COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme](#) to run local support schemes for those in greatest need. They are working closely together to identify residents requiring urgent assistance within the rules of the scheme and the most effective ways of delivering support. This includes working with local Citizens Advice services to continue and expand support already put in place during the autumn. For anyone needing support this winter, Good Food Oxford's [food map](#) provides practical information to help find and access information about services such as foodbanks, community kitchens and food surplus cafes. It covers the whole of Oxfordshire.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

NEW FOOTPATH ON PLOUGH LANE

Plans and costs were approved by the PC last year. I allocated £3450 towards the costs using my Councillor Priority Fund. Work was completed last autumn. I have been copied on emails relating to a path extension between the bus stop and the A4155. This was never part of the agreed plans or costs which were restricted to linking existing sections of footpath, as shown on the drawing supplied by OCC officer Tim Wilde on 03 June 2020. The suggested further extension is likely to be prohibitively expensive, given that a retaining wall would be required due to the height of the verge outside The Old Coach House.

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 'Dragon Patcher' will attend to address the surface issues by the end of January and the line-markers will follow soon after.

IMPACT OF ROAD WIDENING ON A4155 AT THAMES FARM

As per last month's report and meeting discussion, 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 AND MILL ROAD 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 caused by construction traffic once the project had been completed. I understand the PC has now contacted the agent in respect of this.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

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.