

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2020

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

LONGER TERM PLANS FOR PERMANENT INCREASES IN CYCLEWAYS

Residents of all ages can look forward to a step-change in cycling infrastructure aimed at making this green form of transport safer and more attractive for a range of journeys across Oxfordshire. A series of bold plans by OCC, combined with a £2.9m two-stage Government grant, will transform residents' experience of cycling as part of a move to support active and healthy travel combined with a firm commitment to cutting carbon emissions and air pollution. The popularity of cycling has soared since lockdown began in March. The council is determined to build on this trend and to ensure that the related reduction in air pollution (which is down by as much as 64% in some parts of the county) is sustained in the future. Research by market research firm Mintel found that, at the beginning of the year, a third of adults in Britain who didn't currently cycle said they would consider doing so in the future. The active travel fund will allow Oxfordshire to address some of the key factors that deter people from cycling and encourage more journeys by bike. Current measures include prioritising road space for bikes to improve road safety; improving signage and road markings for cycle lanes; and creating more cycle parking in all market towns and Oxford.

GRADUAL AND SAFE REOPENING OF CULTURAL SERVICES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Residents in Oxfordshire will see a very gradual and safe reopening of cultural facilities such as libraries, the Oxfordshire Museum, History Centre and Registration services over the coming weeks and months following the Prime Minister's further easing of lockdown arrangements across the UK. Oxfordshire County Council is planning a phased approach to the reopening of public buildings with every precaution being taken to make sure that this happens safely for those staff who will work in them and members of the public who visit them. On June 23 Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced in parliament a number of changes to the UK's response to COVID-19. These will be applicable from July 4. Previous changes to lockdown arrangements in Oxfordshire have seen household waste recycling centres reopen and schools welcome back more pupils. All of the county council's cultural services sites have been closed in Oxfordshire and elsewhere since late March.

OCC SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR £218M WITH HOMES ENGLAND

Residents will benefit from a funding deal with Homes England for £218m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) dedicated to providing access to the Didcot Garden Town area with the formal signing of the agreement announced in June. The development is great news for the people of Oxfordshire, allowing the council to improve sustainable travel for residents, communities and business whilst supporting thousands of new homes and jobs. This £218m (towards costs of £234m) will deliver:

- Widening the A4130 from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot from single to dual carriageway;
- A new Science Bridge over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Didcot to Culham bridge between the A4130 and A415; and
- A Clifton Hampden bypass

OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS WARNED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Residents have been warned to be on their guard against criminals and scammers exploiting the coronavirus situation. In Oxfordshire, OCC's Trading Standards has received reports of scams targeting people via emails, text messages, and on the doorstep. Useful contacts: **Action Fraud** 0300 123 2040. **Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline** 0808 223 1133. **Age UK** 01865 411288.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

YELLOW LINES AT JUNCTION OF MILL LANE AND MILL ROAD

As previously advised, at the request of the chairman, I informed Highways that the immediate area needs to be swept of accumulated mud/dust from the construction site, which is partly concealing the lines, and that the very faded (and erratic) yellow lines themselves need to be repainted. Sweeping was undertaken today, 13th July. There is some improvement in line visibility but what remains of them is still partially obscured. I am chasing for a firm date for the re-lining.

YELLOW LINES NOT REINSTATED BY NR AT APPROACH TO LEVEL CROSSING

I have alerted Highways to this issue and the matter is being investigated.

FOOTPATH SIGNAGE ISSUES AT LOWER MILL LANE (FERRY LANE)

At the last meeting I noted with disappointment that the battle between OCC Rights of Way and unknown persons that has been ongoing for decades has resumed after a brief lull. Specifically:

- The waymark sign next to Rivermead cottages is obscured by vegetation but there is a prominent 'Covid Keep Out' sign
- The green footpath sign and post next to Riverlawn have been removed
- The waymark sign on the gate of Willows Reach has been removed
- The waymark sign on the new Thames Path post next to the railway bridge has been removed

I visited the site with the PROW officer today, 13th July, and she will arrange for replacement of the signs and will write to the owner of the cottage with the 'Keep Out' sign.

READING TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2036 (INCLUDING THIRD READING BRIDGE)

I emailed all clerks in my Division on 17th May to let you know that Reading is now consulting on its Transport Strategy 2036. Several proposals would have major impacts on South Oxfordshire:

- North Reading Orbital Route (p97)
- A Third Thames crossing (see p98)
- North Reading Park and Rides (p111)

The consultation closes on 30 August and I urge you to respond here:

<https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/reading-transport-strategy-2036/>

In addition, you may also wish to email the Leader of OCC ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Lastly, you will know a joint parish response is being coordinated by Kidmore End PC.

POTENTIAL FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE THAMES

I doubt this Wargrave initiative will get anywhere because of access and funding issues, but would like to know the PC's stance on the proposal.

ROADWORKS ON A4155 AT THAMES FARM

I have received resident complaints that the roadworks have impacted on drainage in the immediate area. The matter is being investigated by Highways.

'PEDESTRIANS CROSSING' SIGN FACING WRONG WAY ON A4155

I alerted Highways that the sign on the approach to the Memorial Avenue junction when coming from the south had been swivelled 180 degrees either by a collision or by vandalism. This has now been repaired.

NEW FOOTPATH ON PLOUGH LANE

Plans and costs have now been approved by the PC. I have allocated £3450 towards the cost using my Councillor Priority Fund. After the last meeting the PC contacted OCC in relation to procurement procedure. Please let me have an update on the matter as I was not copied on the response.

TIMETABLE AND BUS STOP SIGN OPPOSITE THE PLOWDEN ARMS MISSING

As reported in December, I obtained agreement from officers for the removal of the concrete post and installation of a new pole, flag and timetable case. I recently chased this and was advised that the work would be completed during June. I have not yet had the opportunity myself to check this was done.

REPAIRS TO MILL LANE VERGES

As previously reported, 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. I have advised OCC Highways of this and a Highways liaison officer will be nominated.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

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

This proposal is for five flats and a car park. I have advised officers that I intend to call-in this application if they are minded to approve it. Many residents are concerned that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is being quoted by the developer in support of the application. I share this concern.

P20/S2103/FUL PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 20 HOUSES BEHIND CROSSWAYS

I have objected to this application as part of the OCC 'Single Response' and copied the PC in on the relevant emails.