

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2021

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I took the opportunity attend the first meeting of the new Cabinet and submit a written question to the new Cabinet Member for Transport (Duncan Enright, Labour) about the Third Bridge status. Officers supplied an answer which provided some new context in relation to the delayed Outline Business Case (OBC). It seems that far from agreeing to progress the OBC, the Department for Transport (DfT) wants the Cross Thames Travel Group to go back to the earlier Strategic Outline Business Case and upgrade it. This would be costly and would have to be funded locally – such funding has not been forthcoming. Additionally, DfT has confirmed its reluctance to progress the bridge at all unless all parties are in agreement. I think the threat of a car-based bridge is sunk for the foreseeable future.

OXFORDSHIRE COVID CASES SURGE – MAINLY THE UNDER 30S

People in Oxfordshire are being asked to take extra care and accept the offer of first and second vaccinations as cases in the county reach heights not seen since the winter. Cases have risen from 21.1 cases per 100,000 in late May to 101.8 cases per 100,000 in the week ending 25 June. The largest number of cases remain in people aged below 30, with 20 to 29-year olds accounting for 46 per cent of all new cases. All people aged 18 and above are now eligible to receive their first jab.

PATHWAYS TO ZERO-CARBON OXFORDSHIRE REPORT PUBLISHED

A key climate action report – [Pathways to a Zero-Carbon Oxfordshire](#) – by the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute and Bioregional has been published. The county council was one of many organisations involved in commissioning the report as part of its commitment to a zero-carbon future, as outlined in the Carbon Action Framework published last October. The report seeks to provide an evidence base for the transition to zero carbon and the role of partnerships in achieving these goals.

SURVEYS ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

People who live and work in Oxfordshire are urged to have their say on highways and transport issues around the county, including congestion, safety, cycling and the condition of roads and footpaths. Oxfordshire County Council has launched a number of roads and transport [online surveys](#), which are open to the public to comment on. The council is keen to hear views as soon as possible but people will have the chance to comment until February 2022. The online survey categories are:

- accessibility
- highway maintenance
- public transport
- road safety
- tackling congestion
- walking and cycling
- business users.

Earlier this year, the council announced it was investing £31.3 million in improving the highways network for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in 2021/22. Roads, cycleways, bridges, drainage, pavements and streetlights will all benefit from the programme. The full list of projects and their locations is available to view [online](#).

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I have covered this in my general report.

THAMES PATH

I have paid for repairs/upgrades to three sections of the Thames Path in Shiplake using my Councillor Priority Fund.

COVID POSTERS

These are now outdated and serve no useful purpose. Some are half hanging off and will soon become litter, the others look very tired and might encourage flyposting. It is disappointing that despite previous requests, many posters have not been removed – the clean-up is important too if we want to safeguard our lovely village.

FOOTPATH COLLAPSE UNDER RAILWAY BRIDGE

I arranged for the PROW to contact Network Rail as they initially denied liability for repair. Network Rail has now completed the repair.

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

The council has removed these posts and costs will be recovered from the resident who erected them.

IRON RAILINGS AT 'THE CHESTNUTS'

A resident has erected iron railings on Highways land at 'The Chestnuts' and has been instructed by OCC to remove them.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

Taylor Wimpey has now submitted a revised drainage proposal to SODC. This involves pumping the surface water from the site along the A4155 to a discharge point near Sheephouse Lane. Thames Water has stated it is unable to support the proposals for the discharge of the drainage conditions until:

- It has confirmation that a deed of agreement has been reached with the riparian owner of the watercourse at the point of discharge.
- It has confirmation that the Local Lead Flood Authority (OCC) is in agreement with the drainage strategy in relation to impact of the watercourse downstream of the proposed discharge point.
- It has details of how the 'water environment' (particularly groundwater) will be protected throughout each stage of the site development (including the required ground stabilisation – 'grouting' etc). Their particular concern is that the development is in Source Protection Zone 1 (SPZ1) of the local, strategic groundwater abstraction.

I have asked officers why Thames Water did not raise these issues in respect of the original Lashbrook discharge proposal. With regard to the 'engineering operation' (grouting), I have published a statement from SODC planning on the village website.

JOINT HENLEY HARPSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

I attended the exhibition at Henley town Hall at the beginning of the month. I was impressed by the quality of the presentation and the amount of effort that had been put into the project. However, while six of the proposed sites are within Harpsden parish, they are physically adjacent to Shiplake and would rely on Shiplake to meet sustainability criteria. I am not supportive of any of the six sites as they are outside the built-up area of Shiplake and are incompatible with a rural location. I am concerned that as there was no exhibition in Shiplake, residents have been disadvantaged in the consultation process. Furthermore, should any of these sites make it into the final JHHNP proposal, Shiplake residents would have no opportunity to vote on them. I have raised these issues with planning officers.