

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2020

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

SHIELDING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

The most vulnerable residents across Oxfordshire will have recently received correspondence from the NHS, identifying them as high risk and advising them to strictly self-isolate for 12 weeks. We know this long-term restriction may cause additional concerns for those without any nearby support and we want to make sure any shielded residents who don't know where to turn, are not handling these additional worries alone. Local authorities across Oxfordshire have worked with the local Voluntary and Community Sector to develop a simple point of contact for those who have been told by government that they have been identified as extremely vulnerable, and who have no support network and would otherwise be completely isolated. This new, dedicated line provides our extremely vulnerable residents access to a central team who will be able to offer advice on a range of issues, and will be operational from 8:30am to 8:00pm Monday to Friday and 9:00am - 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday. Those who have been identified as extremely vulnerable by the NHS and have no support network should contact the dedicated team on 01865 89 78 20 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk. For those residents who are not in a high-risk category but still in need of support, there are a number of initiatives taking place across the county. They should visit [Oxfordshire All In](#) for more information on nearby community support.

BUSINESSES IN OXFORDSHIRE WARNED TO PROTECT AGAINST COVID19 SCAMS

Businesses in Oxfordshire must be vigilant against scams and fraud. Malicious email attachments, false government grant phone calls and CEO impersonation scams are among a raft of scams undermining businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. OCC is supporting *Businesses Against Scams* – an initiative from National Trading Standards – with a free online training tool to protect businesses, employees and customers from costly scams. The initiative provides free tools for businesses to help upskill and train their workforce, through free online training modules that will help staff identify and prevent potential scams. Businesses can take the training and sign up at: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/BAS.

WORK TO REPAIR AND IMPROVE OXFORDSHIRE ROADS ROLLS ON

Work to repair roads across Oxfordshire is continuing under strict safety rules to ensure OCC's promised [£32m repair pledge](#) is delivered. The government has stated councils should carry on with work to improve and make roads safe as long as it can be done within Public Health England guidance.

MORE THAN 90% OF CHILDREN GET THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL

More than 90% of children set to enter the classroom for the first time this September have been offered their first choice of primary school in Oxfordshire. A total of 6,690 of the 7,384 applicants have received their first choice. Meanwhile 538 applicants have been offered one of the alternative schools they listed on their application form, and only 156 have been offered an alternative that they have not listed as a preference. The consistent high number of first choices achieved in Oxfordshire is due to OCC's careful forward planning to make sure the right numbers of school places exist. This has been achieved through the building and opening of new schools, the expansion of existing schools (new buildings, making better use of existing accommodation), and marginal increases in admission numbers.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

SOUTHERN CROSSING POINT ON A4155

At the January meeting, the PC asked that I investigate why there will be no island/refuge at the new southern crossing point planned as part of the Thames Farm development. At the February meeting I reported back that officers had advised that there was neither the space nor necessity for an island/refuge. At the last meeting (April) the PC passed a resolution of support for a traffic-light controlled pedestrian crossing at this point. I asked officers for a response to this and they have stated:

- The crossing proposed to be delivered has passed every safety review and is appropriate for the area and speed of the road.
- The additional road width required to accommodate either a controlled or uncontrolled crossing would be substantial and not just limited to that required to make the crossing safe, but to also accommodate the loss in drainage in the western verge.
- Currently the road drains into the ditch on the west side of the A4155, and soaks into the ground, there is no outfall in the area. This means a whole new system would need to be installed and a suitable outfall point established, this would take a lot of investigating but also a lot of work to install a new system.
- The forward visibility requirements would mean more Highway land would need to be secured, the only possible option here would be to secure land on the western side which is privately owned.
- Widening the width of the carriageway on this bend will only exacerbate the speed in which vehicles travel around this bend, this in turn would increase the likelihood of an accident between a pedestrian and vehicle.
- Street lighting columns in the area would need to be increased to make any crossing safe, as proposed street lighting columns have been removed to reduce light pollution.
- Costs of the scheme would likely be in excess of £100,000 and this does not include third-party land purchase costs or ongoing maintenance costs.

RELOCATION OF 'LOWER SHIPLAKE' SIGN ON A4155

The boundary between Shiplake Parish and Harpsden in part runs along the A4155. Travelling south from Henley towards Shiplake the village sign is currently positioned opposite to the entrance to the former Wyevale Garden Centre. Just past this on the right hand (west) side the new housing estate is being built at Thames Farm. This estate is in Harpsden parish and will have a Harpsden address, thus the current position of the sign will be confusing for residents and visitors. The proposal is that the sign is relocated near the start of Shiplake proper, probably near Highlands House just before the left turning into Station Road. Harpsden PC has voted unanimously to support this proposal but Shiplake PC voted unanimously to reject it. I am awaiting further advice from officers.

MATTERS STILL PENDING

INCORRECT RE-LINING SUBSEQUENT TO SURFACE DRESSING AT MILL ROAD

Subsequent to the surface dressing of Mill Road, yellow line re-lining has been done incorrectly. There are now single yellow lines in front of what used to be called Sydney Harrison House (prior to re-build), and no lines or single line in front of the neighbouring new properties. All this should be double yellow lines. (It appears the contractor was following an old plan that did not take into account the new order that recently came into force.) The contractor has acknowledged the error and remediation works will take place at no cost to OCC.

POTENTIAL FOOTPATH AT SHIPLAKE CROSS

I have allocated £3450 towards the cost using my Councillor Priority Fund. Plans have been delayed due to the current crisis, but I have asked officers for an update.

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.

TIMETABLE AND BUS STOP SIGN OPPOSITE THE PLOWDEN ARMS MISSING

As reported in December, I have 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 a budget allocation was still being awaited.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

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

I have advised officers that I intend to call-in this application if they are minded to approve it.