

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OCC WORKS ON ACTION PLAN TO GO CARBON NEUTRAL

The council started a long-term programme five years ago to cut carbon emissions but since the OCC motion in April 2019 acknowledging the climate emergency, the council has been working on a new plan to accelerate the programme to become carbon neutral by 2030. OCC has already delivered an average 6% per year reduction in carbon emissions since 2011 – double its target – but is determined to do more. OCC is delivering a series of ‘green’ initiatives, including helping install more solar panels on schools. Solar Schools is a partnership between OCC and not-for-profit organisation Low Carbon Hub, funded by resident shareholders who make an ethical investment to fund solar panels for a small annual return. The 20 OCC maintained Solar Schools generate electricity to the equivalent needed to power 150 households, saving over 260 tonnes of carbon per year. Another example of partnership working is Project LEO (local energy Oxfordshire) with OCC joining a consortium led by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, together with the universities and Oxford City Council to develop a localised approach to sustainable energy generation and use. OCC has also committed to replacing street lights with low energy lighting over the next four years. This will reduce Oxfordshire’s greenhouse emissions from streetlighting by 70%. The investment will also include a communications system between streetlights, allowing dimming of groups of lights when they’re not needed. OCC supports a 65-strong network of Community Action Groups (CAG) at the forefront of community-led climate change action. They organise events and projects on issues including waste, transport, food, energy, biodiversity and social justice. Groups are working to establish community fridges to reduce food waste and share surplus. They run workshops, teaching residents how to repair items, keeping products in use for longer. Working with local businesses, they help them reduce their impact on the environment and set up refill stations for water and detergents to reduce waste from single use plastics.

ROADWORK PERMIT SCHEME AIMS FOR ‘LESS HASSLE’ FOR ROAD USERS

Until now the county council has had a system of ‘noticing’ which relied on mutual cooperation between anyone needing to work in the road and the council. Because of this, over-running or badly managed work has been difficult to deal with effectively due to the limited sanctions available to the county council. New powers have been approved that will give OCC more control over roadworks. From December the council will introduce a new system that means companies wanting to work on roads around Oxfordshire will have to apply and pay for a permit in order to work on the highway. These will clearly set out how the work will be done, the duration, times of work and how traffic will be managed. When there are clashes between different sets of work the council will also require companies to collaborate more closely to minimise disruption. Companies that need to work on the roads will benefit from the fact that securing a permit means that they have effectively booked the road space that they need. The permit scheme operates to conditions that are the same across the UK, meaning it will be easier to work consistently across council borders. While the council will have the power to refuse permission for planned work to take place if it believes the proposed timings or planned approach will cause unnecessary disruption, emergency unplanned work needed for things such as pipe bursts will be unaffected.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS IS 31 OCTOBER 20

Parents apply online for secondary school places at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

TIMETABLE AND BUS STOP SIGN OPPOSITE THE PLOWDEN ARMS MISSING

I have asked officers to investigate this matter and am awaiting a response.

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

Please note the revised 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.

IMPROVING SAFETY ON A4155

As previously reported, the speed limit change was implemented on 19th August. Retirement Villages is trying to get the change reversed. This was initially refused, but they requested a hearing which was scheduled for 5th September. Retirement Villages then requested an adjournment and the new hearing is scheduled for 28th November.

ROAD CONDITION AT JUNCTION OF PLOWDEN WAY AND PLOUGH LANE

Repairs are scheduled for late October. Repair markings are already in place.

MILL ROAD PARKING RESTRICTIONS – DOUBLE YELLOW LINES NEAR SH HOUSE

The consultation has now closed and the proposal has been approved. I indicated I was supportive of the proposal but had concerns parking might simply be displaced to the other side of the road. It has been agreed this will be monitored. Details can be found here:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=931&MId=5739&Ver=4>

CLOSURE OF CROWSLEY ROAD BY THAMES WATER 1 – 4 OCTOBER

Proper procedures were not followed in respect of notification or diversion routes and a complaint has been raised.

CLOSURE OF MILL ROAD AT SYDNEY HARRISON HOUSE 27 SEPTEMBER

This was an unlawful closure for which permission had not been sought. OCC is in contact with SOHA in respect of possible penalty payments.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I successfully moved a motion in relation to this matter at OCC Full Council on Tuesday 10th September and SODC Full Council on Thursday 10th October. As a consequence, the Leaders of both councils have written to council leaders at Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell, plus MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:

- a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;
- b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) must not be considered as two separate projects, but as one project so that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the scheme can be holistically assessed. All Leaders and MPs, and other key councillors and officers, are meeting on Friday 18th October to review the project.