

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL OCT 2020

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OXFORD EDGES TOWARDS A RED ALERT AS CORONAVIRUS CASES DOUBLE

Residents are being urged to be extra vigilant to avoid local control measures as Oxford sees a sharp rise in coronavirus cases. The latest figures for the city show a doubling of cases to a rate of 43.9 per 100,000 of the population – putting the city on amber alert but edging closer to a red alert level. Oxfordshire as a whole is currently on yellow alert, with cases at 18.1 per 100,000. The cases are across all parts of the city, with the majority among 18-24-year-olds and cases per 100,000 are now at their highest level in Oxford since May. Ansa Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Public Health, said: "My plea is a simple one – keep your distance, wash your hands, wear a mask, and ensure you are adhering to the rule of six."

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND COVID-19: PARENTS, PUPILS AND TEACHERS PRAISED

Parents, carers, pupils, teachers and school support staff are being praised by OCC's public health and education teams for their commitment to ensuring a safe return to classroom education, despite the continued national challenges of COVID-19. Pupil attendance in all Oxfordshire schools is currently significantly higher than the national average: For Oxfordshire maintained schools, at the end of September, it was 93.3% compared to 88.7% across England. Schools are working hard to carefully manage their COVID-19 safety measures. They are regularly communicating details to parents, carers and pupils by letter, social media and online virtual meetings giving parents confidence to return their children to the classroom, maintain attendance, and enhance their children's wellbeing. Head teachers and members of the Council's public health and education teams have put in place robust processes so that schools, colleges and early years settings can respond quickly and appropriately to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

OXFORDSHIRE TO RE-OPEN MORE LIBRARIES

More Oxfordshire libraries opened on 28th and 29th September and work progresses for more to open in early October. The changes mean that Sonning Common, Faringdon, Watlington and Goring libraries have now reopened and work is progressing for, Chinnor, Woodgreen, Charlbury and Wychwood libraries to be open early October. OCC has previously successfully reopened 20 libraries including Abingdon, Banbury, Berinsfield, Bicester, Blackbird Leys, Carterton, Chipping Norton, Cowley, Didcot, Eynsham, Headington, Henley, Kidlington, Summertown, Thame, Wallingford, Wantage, Woodstock, Witney and the Oxfordshire County Library in the Westgate Centre. Please check Oxfordshire Libraries website for the current opening hours as they may not be the same as pre-Covid-19 and may be subject to change.

'YOU CAN ADOPT' CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire is playing a key role in the national #YouCanAdopt campaign, which explores what the adoption process involves and highlights the need for more adopters. Since early April, there has been a 14% increase in enquiries to adopt with Adopt Thames Valley. However, considerable delays to court processes due to COVID-19 means there will be many more children who will need adopting come the autumn. Oxfordshire desperately needs more adopters from across its diverse communities, who can offer children a permanent safe and loving home. The adoption process has evolved over the last few years; it is simpler and quicker than it has been previously and there is a lot more support available. To find out more visit www.adoptthamesvalley.co.uk

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

OBSCURED/MISSING YELLOW LINES AT JUNCTION OF MILL LANE AND MILL ROAD

As previously advised, sweeping was undertaken on 13th July. Ironically, the crew arrived a couple of weeks later to undertake the siding-out and relining but could not do so because of parked cars. I am chasing for a revised date for the work.

OBSCURED/MISSING YELLOW LINE NEAR RAILWAY CROSSING

I escalated this matter and the line has now been reinstated.

NETWORK RAIL DELAYED TRACK REPLACEMENT IN SHIPLAKE

Further to an enquiry from the Vice Chairman, I investigated this matter. OCC has confirmed there are no access issues impeding this work. When the TTRO was originally applied for it was refused due to a request to use Bolney Lane which would not have been suitable, however it was then approved when the traffic management plan was amended. The works were due to start on 29th September but the permit was cancelled by Network Rail on 25th August with the comment 'work has been abandoned'. This matter is now outside the remit of OCC but officers are trying to be helpful and discover the reason behind the decision, however the PC may wish to make its own enquiries.

IMPACT OF ROAD WIDENING ON A4155 AT THAMES FARM

At the previous meeting, I suggested the PC may wish to undertake a speed survey which would provide hard evidence (or not) of any increase in average speed. The PC agreed a cost of approximately £400 in total for two locations, however I was subsequently able to obtain a price of £375 including the third location requested at no extra cost. Data is now in for the southern and central site, but the northern survey (nr Bolney Lane) is being re-run due to equipment failure.

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

As previously reported, unauthorised steel gateposts and a gate have been erected on Mill Lane. OCC Public Rights of Way has given the person responsible until 15th October to remove them. A complaint has also been received from Network Rail about concrete blocks being deposited on the lane. The same person has been asked to remove these.

REPAIRS TO MILL LANE 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 in Mill Lane caused by construction traffic once the project had been completed. Please advise if the PC has contacted the agent in respect of this.

POTENTIAL FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE THAMES

As stated at the previous meeting, 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.

NEW FOOTPATH ON PLOUGH LANE

Plans and costs were approved by the PC earlier in the year. I allocated £3450 towards the costs using my Councillor Priority Fund. Work has now been completed.

MISSING VAS SIGN ON A4155 AT THAMES FARM

Taylor Wimpey has confirmed that the new vehicle activated sign (VAS) was ordered on the 26th August and has a 6-8 week lead time for delivery. The new sign should therefore be delivered between 1st and 15th October and will be installed shortly afterwards.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

THAMES FARM: P20/S2825/EX (EXTENSION OF TIME) & P20/S2808/DIS (DRAINAGE)

The application from Taylor Wimpey (TW) to extend the construction schedule by one year attracted over 50 objections from residents. Their concern is not that construction is delayed, but that TW are planning to delay the tree replanting until construction commences. Permission to extend the schedule was granted and TW's reasons for delaying the replanting are given on the SODC website. The drainage plans also have major implications for the village and I have previously advised that the PC should familiarise itself with the scheme.