

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL SEPT 2021

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

PRIORITIES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION

The new LibDem/Green/Labour administration has announced its priorities. I have concerns that some of these areas, while laudable, are matters beyond the council's remit and are for central government, or that the council can have minimal impact upon them. The priorities are:

- Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Tackling inequalities
- Prioritisation of wellbeing
- Review and reform of the social care system
- Increased investment in travel network to reduce car journeys
- Improved access to nature and green spaces
- Supporting children and young people to achieve improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes
- The creation of a resilient local democracy
- Support for local employment and businesses to make Oxfordshire a centre for green technologies

The vast majority of the emails I receive are about road maintenance/improvement, traffic accidents, drains, grass cutting, flooding, footpaths, waste disposal and planning matters – these important but unglamorous matters receive barely a mention and the administration seems to focus more on grandstanding on national issues than the fundamentals of running a local council.

THANKING PEOPLE IN OXFORDSHIRE FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

People in Oxfordshire who are wanting to donate items to help those who have been evacuated from Afghanistan are being thanked for their warm-hearted reaction to the situation. The generosity of Oxfordshire people to date means that no further donations are needed just now. Some of the items donated have already been distributed and gratefully received by arrivals at RAF Brize Norton from Afghanistan over recent days. OCC will be working closely with the district councils and the city council in coming days and weeks as the situation develops. Further information on support for refugees in Oxfordshire can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/support-afghan-refugees/>

OAKLEY WOOD HWRC UNDER THREAT?

I am concerned that once again, our Oakley Wood household waste recycling centre (HWRC) could be under threat. Please respond to the following consultation and forward it to any residents you think might be interested.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tell-us-what-you-think-of-countys-household-waste-and-recycling-centres/>

ROUTE REVEALED FOR OXFORDSHIRE STAGE OF WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE

This year's Women's Tour professional cycling race comes to Oxfordshire on **Monday 4 October**. Route details can be found here: <https://www.womentour.co.uk/stages/stage-1/>

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

CONDITION OF ROAD AT MILL LANE (LOWER PART – ALSO KNOWN AS FERRY LANE)

In recent weeks, SODC's waste contractor Biffa has been refusing to collect waste from residents as Biffa says the road gets blocked and the edges are crumbling, this is despite the repair works done last year. I have arranged for OCC Highways to inspect the site again to establish whether the comments are valid.

FOOTPATH ALONGSIDE THE A4155 LINKING LOWER SHIPLAKE TO SHIPLAKE CROSS

I have asked for an update on costs, emphasising this would be a rural footpath, not an urban pavement.

POSSIBLE PLANNING BREACH/HIGHWAYS ENCROACHMENT AT MILL ROAD

At the last meeting, you asked me to investigate possible Highways infringements at the pair of semi-detached houses with garages fronting Mill Road built on the site of the former Sydney Harrison house. I circulated the results of my enquiries via the clerk on 16 August 2021 11:10.

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. The matter is ongoing.

SPEED TUBES ON A4155 NEAR THAMES FARM DEVELOPMENT SITE

I am attempting to discover who commissioned this speed survey and why. OCC has had no request for permission to conduct the survey. Such permission is not mandatory.

SPECIFIC SODC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

JOINT HENLEY HARPSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

I have continued to support the PC with its opposition to six of the proposed sites that are within Harpsden parish, but are physically adjacent to Shiplake and would rely on Shiplake to meet sustainability criteria.

MILL LANE (FERRY LANE) WASTE COLLECTION

A temporary solution has been found by Biffa using a smaller truck. Background to the wider issues is being investigated as per my County report.

P20/S2808/DIS: THAMES FARM

As previously reported, Taylor Wimpey has 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 until a range of issues has been addressed. The OCC/SODC response is expected with the next couple of weeks. (Note: an incorrect response was posted and withdrawn last week.)

P21/S3776/FUL AND P21/S1389/O: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT KINGSLEY

I have been contacted by a number of residents concerned about these applications. For reasons of transparency, I must declare that a small part of my rear boundary backs onto the site but the proposed access drive and car park would be shielded from my property by the main Kingsley building and therefore do not directly impact upon me. The key issues appear to be a substantial increase in vehicular movements adjacent to people's gardens, the creation of a large car park and the change in character of this low-density, 'Sylvan' part of the village. I circulated information to the PC planning committee via the clerk on 06 September 2021 21:29.

P21/S3236/DIS (INC. RELATIONSHIP TO P21/S0859/FUL): RETIREMENT VILLAGE

I have raised a number of concerns with officers, including proposed urbanising measures which I believe would not be acceptable to the PC or residents. **The PC needs to be proactive in engaging with this matter as it is not an official consultee.**