

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL DEC 2024

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OCC BUDGET 2025/26 CONSULTATION

A public consultation on the substance of the 2025/26 budget proposals is now live and will run until 2 January 2025 on the council's consultation and digital engagement platform [Let's talk Oxfordshire](#). People can comment on the council's proposed budget with feedback captured using an online form or in writing by Freepost.

RESIDENTS TO BE COMPELLED TO PRE-BOOK VISITS TO HWRCs

OCC is to introduce a booking system for residents visiting the county's [seven household waste recycling centres](#) (HWRCs), thus people will no longer be able visit the sites without pre-booking. Cllr Pete Sudbury, Deputy Leader of OCC made the decision on 14th November, at his cabinet member's decision meeting. OCC maintains there is no evidence that the introduction of booking systems will lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN OXFORD

OCC is to partner with Asylum Welcome to instigate a six-month pilot scheme to enable free bus travel for asylum seekers accommodated within the city of Oxford. Asylum seekers stay free in hotels and are entitled to a weekly allowance. OCC has been working on the free travel scheme with local organisation Asylum Welcome following the decision made by the OCC Cabinet back in June that it should become a Council of Sanctuary. It is calculated that around 275 asylum seeking people accommodated within Oxford would be eligible. The pilot scheme will cost around £31,000.

OCC TO SPEND £6.6M ON 'MINI HOLLAND' PROJECT

The OCC Cabinet has approved the inclusion of East Oxford Mini Holland project into the capital programme with a value of £6.646m. This project aims to deliver a programme of public realm, walking and cycling infrastructure improvement measures across East Oxford, connecting residential areas.

MEN ENCOURAGED TO GET THEIR FREE NHS HEALTH CHECK

Men over 40 are being encouraged to get their free NHS health check. The free Oxfordshire County Council funded health check can lower a person's risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and (certain types of) dementia. NHS health checks are funded by the county council's public health team, which exists to improve the health of local people and protect them from preventable health issues – helping local residents live safe and healthy lives and play an active role in their communities. Everyone eligible, aged 40 to 74 in England, will be invited for a free NHS health check once every five years (apart from those already seeing their GP for certain conditions).

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS OPENS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Parents and carers of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 can now apply for their children to attend a primary school for September 2025. As in previous years, parents will be invited to list four schools as preferences. Applications should be submitted [online](#) by 15 January 2025.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

A4155 CROSSING POINT NEAR HIGHLANDS HOUSE

Officers have advised that as the Section 278 works are not 'completed' in accordance with the legal agreement and will not be until such a time as the on-site drainage matters are resolved and re-constructed, Taylor Wimpey (TW) remains responsible for the S278 works that have already been carried out. The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit had identified possible issues with the crossing point and the officers' plan was to ask TW to carry out speed surveys prior to first occupation. However, due to all of the site delays, and that other developments on that side of the road are building out, they will now write to TW to ask them to carry out the speed surveys, clear vegetation in the visibility splay and report accordingly on the speed survey information.

THAMES FARM DAMAGED FENCING

I wrote to Taylor Wimpey (TW) stating I was very concerned that the Thames Farm site which TW has described as dangerous due to sinkholes had been unsecured for over two weeks due to storm damage. Furthermore, the broken fence panels were obstructing the pavement and most of the warning signs are no longer visible. I received a response from TW stating the repairs would commence today.

P24/S2954/FUL LASHBROOK HOUSE NURSING HOME REDEVELOPMENT

OCC has recommended the application is refused for the following reasons:

- The proposals fail to provide for safe access by sustainable travel and therefore the development would be highly reliant upon private car use.
- Due to the nature of the local highway network, narrow, unlit carriageways would present an unacceptable harm to the safety and convenience of highway users.

FMS REF 6420011: DAMAGED VAS SIGN ON PLOUGH LANE

The sign has been repaired and will be installed 'as soon as possible' in the New Year.

MARSH LOCK HORSEBRIDGE REPAIRS

All in all, the timescale is very depressing: 2025/26 for survey work; 2026/27 for funding submissions; perhaps a start on work in 2027/28. Temple Bridge at Hurley has priority.

EMERGENCY PLAN

Subsequent to me providing the PC with a pack of Emergency Plan material at the last meeting, Cllr Manning asked for PDF versions which I arranged for the appropriate OCC officer to supply.

FMS REF: 6523548 FADED WHITE LINES AT JUNCTION NEXT TO CORNER SHOP

I escalated this issue and officers have confirmed it has been added to the works schedule.

FOOTPATH ALONGSIDE A4155 FROM MEMORIAL AVENUE TO PLOUGH LANE

I arranged for an officer to do a site survey to confirm costs and I am awaiting a response.

SHIPLAKE LOCK CAMPING ISLAND

I contacted OCC Community Safety regarding the licence issued to the EA by SODC and they said they had no concerns about emergency access despite the licence conditions.