

REPORT TO BIX & ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2018 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

SHARED SERVICE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OCC AND CDC

As reported previously, OCC and Cherwell District Council (CDC) are considering a proposal for shared service arrangements under a joint chief executive, while retaining separate councillor bodies, budgets and decision-making processes. The exact arrangements for sharing services and joining up functions still need to be worked out in detail and then agreed separately by each council. They will be implemented incrementally. Approval to move to the next stage was given by OCC's Cabinet on Monday 4 June. OCC's Remuneration Committee subsequently agreed to recommend the appointment of Yvonne Rees, the current Chief Executive of CDC, as joint Chief Executive of the County Council and Cherwell District Council. The appointment process now moves on to both Full Councils of OCC (10 July) and CDC (16 July). The final decision therefore remains a decision for Members.

DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE – OXFORDSHIRE FIGURES ARE IMPROVING

Delayed transfer of care (DToC) cases are now at the lowest level for many years in Oxfordshire. The latest national figures published by the Department of Health showed that the average number of people delayed has fallen from 168 in April 2017 to 117 this April. Since April 2018, the number of delays has fallen further and is currently only 78 – more than halving in just over a year. Effective and sustained joint working by OCC and the NHS across Oxfordshire has seen consistent and on-going reductions in the number of people delayed in hospital. Department of Health figures showed a 44% decrease in the number of social care delays, and a drop in the overall number of days delayed in a hospital. Only 13% of delays were attributable to social care, which is down from 15% in March 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET OUTTURN HITS THE MARK

The council's Cabinet received final budget figures for the 2017/18 financial year at its meeting on Tuesday, June 19. OCC managed its net budget with 99.8 per cent accuracy for 2017/18, with an underspend of just £1m (0.2 per cent) on an overall service budget of £422m.

SITE ALLOCATIONS CONSULTATION ON MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

The council reached a new milestone in the ongoing planning process to decide where minerals can be extracted and waste management facilities can be located in June with Cabinet asked to approve a site consultation exercise. This will take place in July-September and it will be open to all interested organisations and individuals to respond. All parish councils, environmental and community groups, organisations and individuals who have previously asked to be informed about the plan will be notified when the consultation starts, where the consultation documents can be seen and how to respond. A core strategy was adopted by the council in September 2017 and it was always planned that work on specific site allocations would follow this.

The report can be viewed here:

http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s42394/CA_JUN1918R15%20MWLP-SitesPlan_Report_final.pdf

HIGHWAYS UPDATE

The bad winter has taken its toll on road conditions across the county, so OCC welcomed the additional £2.7m the Government has provided for this year; additional gangs have been employed to ensure we utilise the funds during the summer months. Last month 6,236 defects were repaired showing progress is being made on the defects reported during the bad weather. A fact sheet has been produced giving details about the condition of the county's highways and the actions being taken to maintain them. This will be issued to all councillors and parish clerks during the month of July.

OXFORDSHIRE'S NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE LAUNCHED

A new domestic abuse service for Oxfordshire was launched in June. The new service was set up by OCC in partnership with District Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. The service is designed to be highly inclusive to address emotional and practical support needs for any victim suffering or fleeing domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. It incorporates a single access point for victims and professionals, community-based Outreach Workers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and includes specialist workers to support young people and Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities. There is also a program to support victims with complex needs. Victims fleeing abuse will be able to access refuge in Banbury and in one other location, located in either Didcot or Oxford. In addition, the service launches a new model of refuge, delivered from dispersed locations across Oxfordshire, benefiting those unable to access conventional refuge services including male victims, victims with live in carers and families with older male sons. To report concerns, please use the A2Dominion ODAS helpline (0800 731 0055) or oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk

NHS HEALTH CHECKS

OCC-funded NHS Health Checks are designed to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. They are available to anyone aged between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not already been diagnosed with an existing cardiovascular condition. They are free and applicants will be invited to have one once every five years. GP surgeries will automatically send out invitations, but if one is not received, residents should contact their surgery and make an appointment. The check will take around 20 to 30 minutes. For further information about free NHS Health Checks visit: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE SCAMMERS

OCC is an enthusiastic backer of Friends Against Scams, a national scheme run by the country's trading standards services, which aims to:

- Highlight the scale of the problem by getting communities and the nation talking about scams.
- Change the perceptions of why people become scam victims.
- Prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim by providing more adequate support.
- Recruit people to join the fight against scams to make this a scam-free nation

Friends Against Scams works on several levels. It has a website which gives detailed information on the huge variety of scams as well as encouraging visitors to take a more active role. Residents can become a 'friend' by completing an online course or build up to become a SCAMBassador – giving talks to local groups and organisations – after receiving further face-to-face training by OCC's own Trading Standards Service. For further information visit the Friends Against Scams [website](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk). Advice is available on 03454 04 05 06.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

DAMAGED/OBSCURED SIGNS AND FALLEN TREE ON DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

I have had extended contact with officers in relation to these matters. The sign repairs have been costed and it has also been concluded the repairs will necessitate closure of one lane. Vegetation cutback will occur at the same time. I am pressing for a firm date. With regard to the fallen tree, the Tree Officer has deemed that it does not create any safety issues but does provide a habitat for wildlife; there are therefore no plans to remove it.

DOBSONS LANE

As previously advised, I was contacted by residents with regard to the poor state of the lower part of Dobsons Lane, in contrast to the top part which has been repaired. After extensive investigation, it became clear that maintenance may have been overlooked because of confusion in respect of the county boundary and inconsistency of road naming on different maps. These matters have now been resolved and I can confirm the lane has been added to the list of roads requiring substantial repairs. I cannot give a timescale for this, but any pressing defects should be reported via FixMyStreet.

NATTRAN/SE/S247/2954 - STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT MAYFLOWER COTTAGE

Residents may be bewildered that the Appeal Inspector has allowed the cottage owners to incorporate part of the highway into their garden, purely because there were no substantial planning grounds for objection.

GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE

All vision splays should be completed within two weeks (weather depending). Rural cuts (outside 30mph limits) will start later in July and be finished by end of September. The current programme is on the public website here: [Grass verge cutting programme | Oxfordshire County Council](#) which includes a link to a map showing the areas.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

As advised in earlier reports, I have a £15k fund for Highways works, which I will allocate across my nine parishes in relation to parish size. In respect of Bix & Assendon, I will provide match-funding of up to £1k. This means that if the PC identifies projects costing a total of £2k, I will meet half the cost from my fund. If the works are costed via OCC Highways and undertaken by them, all that is needed is my agreement to proceed; if works are costed and undertaken by third-parties a form will need to be completed followed by a simple OCC approval process.