

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS NOV 2021 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

LEADER BELATEDLY CALLS ON GOVERNMENT FOR MORE MONEY

Long after the consultation period closed, the OCC Leader belatedly wrote to the Prime Minister two days before Government's autumn budget to ask for more social care funding.

FIRST THEY BANNED 'CHAIRMAN', NOW THEY WANT TO BAN MEAT & DAIRY

I have previously reported how the administration has banned the use of the word 'chairman', now a member of the Liberal Democrat Green Alliance is bringing a motion to Full Council on November 2nd to ban meat and dairy products from being served at Council-catered events and meetings. Veganism is a personal choice that should be respected but this attempt to dictate the diet of others is totally unacceptable. I have proposed an amendment that does not ban meat and dairy but ensures a vegan option is available. I hope it is accepted.

PROPOSALS FOR 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE TOWNS & VILLAGES

On October 19th the OCC Cabinet approved a proposal that has the objective of switching 85% of the county's 30mph speed limits to 20mph. The document can be read [here](#). Whatever side of the argument parish councils and residents are on, the proposal is unlikely to satisfy anyone. Key points are:

- The plan is to spend £8m changing 30mph signs to 20mph signs (para 12 of report).
- The new lower limit will not be enforced by the police (para 26).
- In the unlikely event of a speeding fine being issued, there is a high degree of probability it could be successfully legally challenged as the usual procedures will not have been followed (para 32).
- Everything hinges on drivers obeying the new limit as a matter of conscience (para 9).

The reality will be that the word will get out that the limit is a paper tiger with no teeth and it will be widely flouted: diligent drivers who currently observe limits will continue to do so, but speeders will continue to speed. Many might think the county would be better spending the £8m on more road repairs.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES SET FOR REFRESH IN NOVEMBER

People planning to use Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) during November are being warned about a series of short closures to enable essential work to be carried out. OCC will be shutting each of its centres for two days to allow for deep cleaning and essential maintenance to take place. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas, as well as other general work to improve the customer experience. The closing dates for Oakley Wood are Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 November.

NEW TRANSPORT PLAN WITH CONFUSED OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY CABINET

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan sets out to reduce the need to travel and to discourage individual private vehicle use. The ambition is to press residents into walking and cycling, or to use public and shared transport. While there are merits in parts of these proposals, residents in rural areas will have concerns about how this is to be delivered given Oxford always seems to take priority. OCC is proposing to undertake a further public consultation on the plan and supporting strategies in due course with final adoption of the plan currently scheduled for spring 2022.

CHANGES TO PARKING ENFORCEMENT GO LIVE ON 1 NOVEMBER

The way parking is controlled in parts of Oxfordshire will change next week. From 1 November, OCC will take on responsibility for civil parking enforcement from Thames Valley Police. The council already enforces parking in Oxford. It has also delegated the role to the district council in West Oxfordshire. OCC is now taking over in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and at Cherwell District Council. The new arrangement also means the creation of extra on-street pay and display car parking spaces in the Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell districts. The hope is that the new arrangement will be self-funding, with the extra pay and display spaces helping to pay for enforcement costs, although there will be some limited funding from the three districts.