

REPORT TO BIX & ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2021

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

The county council is holding elections for all 63 seats across 61 divisions on Thursday 6th May. Verification will take place on Friday 7th May. Counting will take place on Sunday 9th May and results will be announced the same day.

OXFORDSHIRE TO BENEFIT FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Residents of Oxfordshire can look forward to a future of good, environmentally responsible growth in the years ahead to 2050. The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is a landmark document for Oxfordshire led by the Oxfordshire Growth Board and being voted on this spring by its constituent members including the county and district councils. Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet approved the vision with some amendments at its meeting on Tuesday, April 20. The document sets out specifically the concept of "good growth" based on enhanced social, environmental and economic wellbeing. This means that by 2050 amongst other goals that Oxfordshire will:

- Be healthy and inclusive, with all development addressing inequalities and contributing positively to the overall health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's communities, environment and economy.
- Support diverse, accessible employment, generating a highly productive and inclusive economy based on our world-class research, innovation and technology.
- Build resilience to change, with growth planned in ways that: build on strengths and assets to support communities during periods of change; support economic diversity and can accommodate changes in technology; recognise changes in the way that people live and work and changing demographics; and respond to worldwide impacts, particularly from climate and economic changes.

These goals will form the basis of county council-specific plans for growth including the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) and the future Nature Recovery Network Strategy. In addition, the vision includes working towards a County target of 2040 for net zero carbon. This emphasises a shared commitment for county-wide net zero target of 2040 in alignment with district councils within 10 years of our own Carbon Reduction Framework target of 2050.

MAJORITY OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN OFFERED FIRST CHOICE PRIMARY

A total of 93.09 per cent (6,409) of applications have been awarded their first choice for starting infant or primary school in Oxfordshire. Last year's figure was 90.60%, meaning a higher proportion of parents and children across the county have been offered their first choice of primary school for 2021/22. A total of 98.86 per cent (6,806) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application.

COVID STATISTICS

In the seven days up to 23 April, there has been a total of 141 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. This is a decrease from 153 new cases in the previous week and is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 20.4 per 100,000 residents. In South Oxfordshire there were 19 cases in the same period, a weekly rate of new cases of 24.3 per 100,000 residents

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

ELECTION RESULT

I am delighted to have been returned as your County Councillor for another four years. However, across the county, the Conservative Independent Alliance have lost their majority and the council is now under no overall control. I will update the parish further at the next meeting when the situation will have become clear.

DAMAGED SIGN NEAR A4130/B480 JUNCTION

Less than two years after re-installation, the sign in the Henley direction has again been totally demolished. It has been reported on FMS by the parish clerk and the reference is 2647832. I have highlighted the issue to officers and they have advised a replacement is in hand.

RESTORATION OF OLD CYCLE PATH FROM LOWER ASSENDON TO BIX

I reported at the last meeting that I had met with the parish chair, the clerk, Cllr Robb and SODC officers to discuss this proposal. The idea now is to expand this to become a cyclepath from Henley to Nettlebed. There would be three sections:

- The Henley to Lower Assendon section which already exists as a shared use path
- The Lower Assendon to Bix section which was the original subject of discussion
- The Bix to Nettlebed section that already exists as a path but needs siding-out/improving

SODC officers have indicated that 50% of the costs could be covered by CIL monies, subject to agreement by OCC officers, to whom I have relayed the proposal and met with an encouraging response. I have chased officers for an update.