

REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL

JULY 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

BIG INCREASE IN ROAD REPAIRS AS COUNCIL INJECTS MILLIONS

Repairs and improvements on Oxfordshire's roads continue with more than 34,000 potholes repaired over the last year, a 45% increase on the previous year – and there's more major repairs to come over the summer. This year and last OCC invested millions of pounds over and above its usual budget so that it can do more repairs and resurfacing projects – and the strategy is paying off with 34,159 potholes repaired compared to 23,486 the year before. The county council recently announced an extra £13m for road maintenance for this financial year on top of its existing £18.5m programme of work – this follows last year's additional £12m boost. Last year's extra cash saw more than [37 extra miles of road being resurfaced](#) through a range of methods which also included surface dressing and micro-asphalting – both of which make road surfaces waterproof and extend their life. This year's additional money will be spent across Oxfordshire's towns and villages on resurfacing, drainage, bridge repairs and footways. The council's road repair crews have also been busy fixing other 'defects' on the roads, too – over 42,000 in total in 2018, an average of 3,500 a month.

OXFORDSHIRE WILL BE PART OF NEW JOINED-UP HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM

Oxfordshire is to be part of a new 'integrated care systems' created by the NHS in England to improve health and social care services. The new joined up care system also covers Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West. The NHS and local authorities in the three areas aim to deliver a person-centred vision for health and care services, making sure services are planned and delivered as locally as possible. Health and care organisations will work collectively to bring better health outcomes for people and ensure effort is not duplicated or resources wasted. More details can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/06/faster-and-more-convenient-health-and-care/>

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AMONG THE BEST FOLLOWING INSPECTION

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is one of only four fire and rescue services to be given an 'outstanding' judgement in any category following inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Following the second out of three tranches of inspections it is the highest scoring County Council Fire and Rescue Service as well as amongst the top ten services in England. The service was inspected by HMICFRS in November 2018, in the first full assessment of fire and rescue services in England for several years. The inspection assessed how effectively and efficiently Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service prevents, protects the public against and responds to fires. It also assessed how well the Service looks after staff. The service, which was in the second tranche of fire and rescue services to be inspected, was rated as 'outstanding' for promoting its values and culture. The inspectorate found that Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service was 'good' across all three core areas.

HELP FOR RESIDENTS APPLYING TO THE EUROPEAN UNION SETTLEMENT SCHEME

OCC will assist residents completing the ID verification process to the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Oxford Register Office and 16 libraries across the county will offer the document validation service as Britain prepares to leave the EU. Settled or pre-settled status will enable European Union, European Economic Area or Swiss citizens to continue living in the UK beyond June 30, 2021.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

DOG LANE RESTRICTED BYWAY SIGNAGE

A resident has complained that the promised 'Restricted Byway' signage has not been erected, but the officer responsible says it has; I would be grateful for clarification from the PC.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

A 'buildability' report for just the bridge with no mitigation measures is expected by the end of this month. In terms of costs, these are currently estimated at £126,193,772, however delivery of a new bridge with associated junctions at either end would be at least £150 million. Furthermore, these costs do not include any land acquisitions, planning or services costs and, most importantly, do not include the costs of any mitigation measures that may be required as a result of the scheme. Of great relevance is that a new organisation called TfSE (Transport for the South East which includes Berkshire and Hampshire) will formally submit their proposals to become a sub-national transport body by the end of 2019. If successful they would obtain legal status for TfSE and will get their own powers and money to help deliver strategic projects. It is understood that the Third Thames Bridge is on their top three priority list and they wish to submit a bid for Large Local Major Fund to work up and deliver the scheme – this needs to be submitted by the end of July. The tranche of money they are going for needs to have construction started by April 2025. The TVB LEP is very supportive of this scheme and is looking at ways they could potentially help fund part of this (i.e. put some money towards developing the business case). Reading's Draft Local Plan reconfirms that building the bridge remains a transport priority.

Next steps – Wokingham is going to continue to lead on the project and work with TfSE and the TVB LEP to pull together a bid document for funding to help produce an Outline Business Case as well as for major scheme funding from the Large Local Majors fund. It is also likely that the Cross Thames Travel Group will be reinstated. **The bridge-building programme has been reinvigorated but mitigation measures for South Oxfordshire including a link road continue to be ignored.**

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

I have offered match-funding of £500 for 2019/20 for Highways works and would be grateful for an update.