

REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL

SEPT 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

SUPERFAST BROADBAND CONNECTIONS ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN BRITAIN

Two-thirds of rural households with access to superfast broadband have signed up – one of the highest sign-up rates in the country. These are households that have benefited from the roll-out of rural broadband by OCC and BT, with support from the government. Superfast broadband take-up has exceeded all expectations. When the programme started it was anticipated take-up would be 25%, not 66%, and the contract with BT was negotiated on this basis. This very much higher rate has resulted in gainshare payments that have flowed back to the county council to be reinvested in the programme to further increase the number of homes that have access. A win-win for all concerned.

NEXT STEPS ADVICE FOR STUDENTS FROM OCC

OCC has congratulated young people on their 2019 exam successes, thanking parents, carers and Oxfordshire teachers who have helped, supported and encouraged pupils. While the vast majority of GCSE pupils will choose to stay on at school or further education colleges, there is also a wide range of workplace training schemes and apprenticeships available within Oxfordshire. For anyone unsure of their next steps after receiving their GCSE, BTEC or A Level results, further help can be found at www.oxme.info and the [National Careers Service](http://NationalCareersService.org.uk), helpline number: 0800 100 900. The apprenticeships website is: www.oxfordshireapprenticeships.co.uk Throughout the results period and beyond, county council staff will be available via the web chat service on the Oxme website to talk to young people and parents about the wide range of learning and employment opportunities available in Oxfordshire for 16-19-year-olds. Details of drop in sessions and other local support can be found at www.oxme.info/resultsday

REDUCE THE USE: TURNING OFF THE PLASTIC TAP

Concerns over the harm single use plastic is causing our environment has been increasing both in the wider population and at OCC. With the undeniable consequences of the toxic results of plastic, OCC is putting a number of steps and changes in place to reduce single use plastics in council buildings across Oxfordshire. A cross-party single use plastic task force was created last year with the aim of reviewing which items were in use across OCC buildings and to see if these could be reduced or replaced with more sustainable alternatives. A single use plastic audit yielded encouraging results, for example:

- Plastic stirrers have been removed from the County Hall café
- Plastic cups have been replaced with recyclable paper drinking cones at water stations
- Milk is now ordered in larger containers
- The fire service is encouraging the use of refillable water bottles
- In many schools, cling film has been replaced with foil

Further to the above initiatives, the council has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030.

STEPHEN CHANDLER NAMED AS OCC'S NEW DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES

Stephen Chandler has been appointed as OCC'S new Director of Adult Services. He is currently Director of Adult Services and lead commissioner with Somerset County Council and will take up his post in Oxfordshire in September. Mr Chandler gained national recognition for leading the transformation of Adult services in Somerset, as well as being system lead with the NHS for a number of urgent care work streams.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

BROKEN MANHOLE COVER IN FRONT OF POST BOX

I escalated this matter which had been reported on FMS. OCC officers then intervened with Openreach. I would be obliged if the PC could confirm the matter has been resolved.

DOG LANE RESTRICTED BYWAY SIGNAGE

The new sign was erected on the existing post and is parallel to the highway rather than perpendicular, reducing the likelihood of it being seen. I have asked officers to see what can be done to improve the situation. A response has been delayed due to the holiday period.

WHITE LINING AT THE MALTSTERS BEND

Previously, there were no road centre white lines here, but there were white lines at the edges. Subsequent to the surface dressing and re-lining the situation has been reversed. I have brought this to the attention of officers and they have advised that reverting the centre back to the previous would damage the road surface and the intention is to leave the centre as it is and to assess the viability of redoing the edges.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

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