

REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2021

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I took the opportunity attend the first meeting of the new Cabinet and submit a written question to the new Cabinet Member for Transport (Duncan Enright, Labour) about the Third Bridge status. Officers supplied an answer which provided some new context in relation to the delayed Outline Business Case (OBC). It seems that far from agreeing to progress the OBC, the Department for Transport (DfT) wants the Cross Thames Travel Group to go back to the earlier Strategic Outline Business Case and upgrade it. This would be costly and would have to be funded locally – such funding has not been forthcoming. Additionally, DfT has confirmed its reluctance to progress the bridge at all unless all parties are in agreement. I think the threat of a car-based bridge is sunk for the foreseeable future.

OXFORDSHIRE COVID CASES SURGE – MAINLY THE UNDER 30S

People in Oxfordshire are being asked to take extra care and accept the offer of first and second vaccinations as cases in the county reach heights not seen since the winter. Cases have risen from 21.1 cases per 100,000 in late May to 101.8 cases per 100,000 in the week ending 25 June. The largest number of cases remain in people aged below 30, with 20 to 29-year olds accounting for 46 per cent of all new cases. All people aged 18 and above are now eligible to receive their first jab.

PATHWAYS TO ZERO-CARBON OXFORDSHIRE REPORT PUBLISHED

A key climate action report – [Pathways to a Zero-Carbon Oxfordshire](#) – by the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute and Bioregional has been published. The county council was one of many organisations involved in commissioning the report as part of its commitment to a zero-carbon future, as outlined in the Carbon Action Framework published last October. The report seeks to provide an evidence base for the transition to zero carbon and the role of partnerships in achieving these goals.

SURVEYS ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

People who live and work in Oxfordshire are urged to have their say on highways and transport issues around the county, including congestion, safety, cycling and the condition of roads and footpaths. Oxfordshire County Council has launched a number of roads and transport [online surveys](#), which are open to the public to comment on. The council is keen to hear views as soon as possible but people will have the chance to comment until February 2022. The online survey categories are:

- accessibility
- highway maintenance
- public transport
- road safety
- tackling congestion
- walking and cycling
- business users.

Earlier this year, the council announced it was investing £31.3 million in improving the highways network for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians in 2021/22. Roads, cycleways, bridges, drainage, pavements and streetlights will all benefit from the programme. The full list of projects and their locations is available to view [online](#).

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I have already supplied an update on this in my general report.

SHEPHERDS GREEN POTHOLES

Potholes have sprung up in Shepherds Green which residents suggest are growing in size and depth. The tarmacked road which travels across Shepherds Green and to Lane End is not part of the public highway and is therefore not OCC responsibility. The District Councillor has advised me that the maintenance of the green and the road is an SODC responsibility under the terms of a 1949 agreement and she has raised this with the cabinet member responsible. A suggestion was made that OCC could undertake the repairs and be reimbursed by the parish council, however OCC has recommended that the parish council employs their own contractors direct so that they can confirm what work they require. This may also provide them with a more cost-effective rate direct rather than going through OCC. Additionally, as there are ongoing negotiations between other parties regarding responsibility for this road, OCC would not wish to get involved in undertaking repairs.

FLOODING IN LANE NEAR GREENMARSH FARM, BIX FMS [2714897](#)

I have received further complaints flooding at this location, which is on the boundary line between Rotherfield Greys and Bix & Assendon parishes. The problem has been around for many years. Our Highways team advises that this stretch of highway is in a low area with the adjoining land higher either side resulting in the flooding problem. The problem is exacerbated by blocked drainage ditches – clearing these is the responsibility of the landowner.