

REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2017 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

KEY PROJECTS AROUND GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE REACH CRITICAL POINTS

Key projects informing how Oxfordshire grows and develops in the coming years will reach critical points in September. They are:

The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy - led by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) on behalf of the Oxfordshire Growth Board, the strategy will be considered for board approval on 26 September by Oxfordshire's six councils, who collectively deliver projects from the government's City and Growth Deals. Public consultation on the strategy's prioritisation framework concludes on 3 September.

Housing Infrastructure Fund - bids totalling up to £500m will be made by OCC, with the support of the Growth Board, to the government's HIF by 28 September.

Oxfordshire Growth Board will decide on the business case for a spatial plan for Oxfordshire. **Place Based Proposal** – negotiations are underway with government to agree a package for Oxfordshire that will help unlock housing and increase productivity through a number of freedoms and flexibilities. The initial proposal is due to be with DCLG by 6 September and an MP briefing session will be arranged to provide an overview of the proposal.

The National Infrastructure Commission establishes governance in the region around major infrastructure projects and connectivity through the `first and last mile` principle.

CONGRATULATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR YOUNGSTERS AFTER EXAMS

Congratulations to all students who achieved their objectives after receiving GCSE, AS and A-Level exam results last month. For those who got their desired grades, and those who would like support, OCC is giving advice for 16 to 19-year-olds about staying in learning, finding a job or starting an apprenticeship. Throughout the results period and beyond, 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, and to help with applications. Information can be accessed via a dedicated page on the Oxme website www.oxme.info/resultsday

CHANGES TO DAYTIME SUPPORT

As demand for social care grows, OCC needs to make sure there is a secure core service in place for the future. To achieve this OCC is introducing a new daytime service. This follows a review of adult daytime support and a public consultation. From 1 October OCC's Health and Wellbeing and Learning Disability Daytime Support Services will be replaced by a new Community Support Service. This will be delivered from eight centres: Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Oxford, Wallingford, Wantage and Witney. Everyone with eligible care needs for daytime support is guaranteed to receive a service and can choose to receive this from OCC. Most day services in Oxfordshire are provided by community groups - three-quarters of these receive no council funding and continue to flourish. The vast majority of the 47 voluntary sector day services that have received funding from OCC have been awarded transitional grants. Further grants will be available in the future. Many people who use daytime services have multiple needs and the Community Support Service buildings will be used by all service user groups with staff providing personalised support to meet individual needs. By introducing these changes OCC is making sure that the services are in place for the people that need them most. Further information is available at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2017/mar/changes-daytime-support>

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE UPDATE

As detailed in the July Parish Report, OCC has signed a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract that secures all seven sites in the medium term, with no change to the sites opening hours or days. Banners and leaflets are now on site at all seven HWRCs, informing local residents that there will be a change in non-household waste charges from the 1st October. The existing DIY 1,2,3 for free scheme is being replaced by a small fixed fee per item of £1.50 for non-household waste. Tyres and plasterboard will also be charged for at an affordable rate. OCC is not obliged to provide residents with a disposal site for non-household waste. However, in the HWRC public consultation carried out in summer 2016, 91% of responses indicated that residents would prefer to pay to deposit non-household waste as a way of saving money and protecting other council services. Soil, rubble, hard-core, plasterboard (gypsum) other DIY type items are classified as construction waste, not household waste, and are expensive for OCC to dispose of. OCC recognises that many householders carry out small DIY projects from time to time, and by applying a small charge this allows HWRCs to continue accepting these discretionary types of non-household waste. Non-household or DIY items, as a general rule are materials created from the construction, demolition, alteration or repair of a home or garden. Residents can still dispose of all their household waste free of charge at any of the county's HWRCs. Also new in October 2017 will be a bin for recycling hard plastics. After a successful trial at Dix and Alkerton HWRCs, items such as plastic garden furniture and children's toys will be collected and recycled from all sites. PCs may want to remind residents that all HWRCs are open until 8pm on Thursdays until 1 October 2017. More information about the changes is available online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste and <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/new-household-waste-recycling-centre-contract-for-oxfordshire-announced/>

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE HOME CARE AGENCY RATED "OUTSTANDING"

A home care provider in Oxfordshire has been rated as "Outstanding" by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), confirming that the county is ahead of national averages. George Springall Homecare is a domiciliary care (home care) agency providing support and care to people in their own homes in the South Oxfordshire area - currently with clients in Wallingford, Botley, Steventon, Shippon, Standlake, Abingdon and Berinsfield. Following an inspection earlier this year it has been given the CQC's top rating of "Outstanding" – which is rarely awarded. The other possible ratings following an inspection are "Good", "requires improvement" or "inadequate". The award means that Oxfordshire is now better than the national average for "Outstanding" domiciliary care agencies with three per cent given the top rating locally compared to two per cent nationally. A total of 86 per cent of local agencies are rated "good" compared to 82 per cent nationally.

£6.2M GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO `HELP UNLOCK 15,000 NEW HOMES` IN DIDCOT

Housing and Planning Minister Alok Sharma has announced that Oxfordshire is set to benefit from thousands of new homes and improvements to local transport networks thanks to a £6.2 million government cash injection awarded to South Oxfordshire District Council. This will accelerate delivery of Didcot's Northern Perimeter Road, a vital piece of local infrastructure and key to the success of Didcot Garden Town, where over 15,000 homes are expected to be built by 2031. The infrastructure investment promises to boost economic growth across the Science Vale and enterprise zone, increasing employment by 20,000 over the next 20 years. Didcot Garden Town's delivery plan sets out a vision for the development of high quality housing and the transformation of the local area. Good design is at the heart of the plan, prioritising high quality public and green spaces. In keeping with its location at the heart of Oxfordshire's Science Vale, cutting-edge technology will underpin and enable development. A mix of affordable and private rented homes will be supported not only by new roads but by a host of other new facilities, including new cycle paths, a leisure centre, new schools, shops and more

green spaces. Guided by residents, this development promises to rejuvenate the area while retaining the unique character of Didcot town.

OXFORD TRANSPORT STRATEGY: DEMAND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS CONTINUE

As part of the Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS), work continues around the potential introduction of demand management measures, including consideration of a workplace parking levy, congestion charging and access restrictions in Oxford. The strategy also includes ambitious proposals for rapid transit, mass cycling and a much stronger emphasis on place and better air quality across the city. September sees the next stage of a programme of work including research with businesses in Oxford and residents across the county, using focus groups and individual interviews, to gather attitudes and views on transport, congestion, and demand management options. Sample representatives from major employers, small and medium enterprises and sole traders will be contacted to better understand their expectations, needs and priorities for transport improvements. Workplace parking surveys will also be carried out to understand the availability and occupancy of car parking in the city. Over 1,500 employers will be contacted in writing to request permission to carry out a survey on their land. Wider consultation on demand management options will be vital to help shape proposals and this is expected to take place between next February and April.

NIC CYCLING ADVISER VISITS OXFORD

The Sunday Times journalist Andrew Gilligan was in Oxford on 7 and 8 August in his newly appointed role of cycling adviser to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC). Mr Gilligan has been asked to write a report, by 11 September, on cycling across Oxford, Milton Keynes, Cambridge and the Growth Corridor and how to make it “world class”. The former London Cycling Commissioner was appointed to the role in July by NIC Chairman, Lord Andrew Adonis. During his visit, co-ordinated by OCC and involving Oxford City Council, the University of Oxford, local cycling charity Cyclox, the Oxfordshire Cycling Network and OxLEP, Mr Gilligan was able to gather information and views on current and future provision for cyclists in the city. He had meetings with the Leader, Councillor Ian Hudspeth; the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Yvonne Constance, and Bev Hindle, Strategic Director for Communities, along with several of his directorate colleagues. Discussions covered the Local Transport Plan, recent infrastructure achievements, plans for the future including provision for cycle commuters (who account for 19% of all commuter journeys in the city), how to get more people into cycling and cycling’s health benefits.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS

HIGHLANDS FARM CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

I have had extensive correspondence with a resident in relation to this matter and have raised enquiries with officers. It has been confirmed that there is no routeing agreement for construction traffic as all options are inherently problematic. Reducing traffic through Rotherfield Greys, for example, would simply increase traffic on Greys Road and Gillotts Lane – routes that are equally unsuitable. I am investigating traffic calming options, but am unconvinced a cure-all fix can be found.

ROCKY LANE GRAVEL

The Area Steward has advised me this has been programmed for works, but no start date has been set due to budget constraints. I will continue to chase.

THIRD READING BRIDGE

The Strategic Outline Business Case document has now been subject to a preliminary review by OCC officers, but has not yet been discussed by the Member Steering Group. Officers have raised technical queries in relation to the way the report has been produced. The next evaluation stage (Outline Business Case) would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to produce and the final project cost is estimated at well in excess of £100m. I will report back with further news when it is available.

WOODEN POSTS ON THE PUBLIC VERGE IN GREYS GREEN OUTSIDE GREYS END

I have heard back from the Area Steward and he has advised me that OCC would be taking no action. This is consistent with a wider policy where non-dangerous or overly obtrusive verge markings are permitted on a discretionary basis throughout the county.